

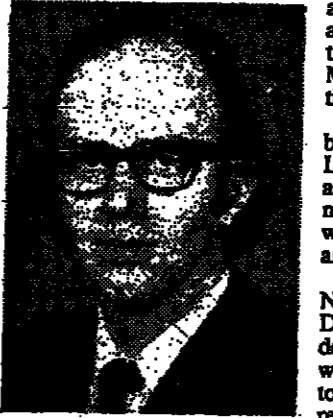
Rector 'tricked into getting money to save man from Satan'

The caring, charming rector of a rural parish and a number of titled and wealthy people were tricked by a confidence trickster into a scheme which netted him more than £200,000, a court was told yesterday.



The Rev John Baker, 'a kind man without guile'.

Record producer Derry Mainwaring Knight tricked the Rev John Baker, of East Sussex, into helping him allegedly buy out the trappings of a Satanic circle to turn its members to the path of righteousness. Mr Michael Corkery, QC, for the prosecution, said at Maidstone Crown Court.



Lord Hampden, one of those who gave money.

Mr Knight had obtained around £25,000. Mr Corkery said Mr Knight had done that by convincing the rector that he would use the money to buy articles and the regalia of a satanic organisation.

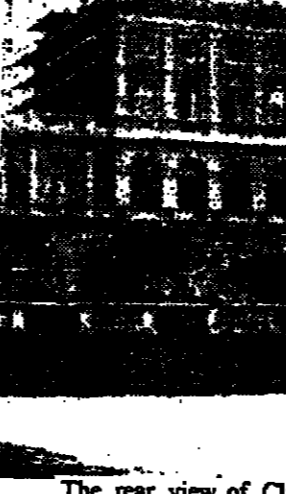
The rector helped with prayer and counselling and Mr Knight went to see him and told him about his past life. Six months after moving into the village, Mr Knight's wife, Gwendoline, was involved in a car crash.

Mr Knight told the rector he was prepared to give his life to Christ and one evening went into a trance where, according to the rector, he seemed to be possessed by spirits. Mr Knight claimed during his trance that he belonged to Lucifer, had been initiated into satanism by sacrifice at the age of eight, was a master of the occult and held high office in a satanic order.

Cliveden awaits the new guest 'set'



One of Cliveden's butlers, Mr Michael Holliday, standing next to a painting of Lady Astor in the Great Hall.



The rear view of Cliveden from the garden. (Photographs: Peter Trivnor).

A hotel already internationally famous nearly three weeks before it is due to welcome its first guests, yesterday opened its doors to the world. Cliveden, one of the great houses of England, the former home of the Astor family and a centre of high society and later notoriety, will from March 6 be taking in paying lodgers at up to £300 a night.

Its owners, the National Trust, have spent nearly £750,000 on repairs to the roof, windows and exterior rendering and has leased Cliveden for 45 years to Blakeney Hotels, who in turn have spent £2,300,000 on furniture, central heating, electrical work and bathrooms.

EEC cash blow to cancer research

Cancer research that could lead to many thousands of lives being saved every year throughout Europe is being threatened by lack of funding and bureaucratic delays within the EEC. Collaboration among more than 3,000 cancer specialists at 250 hospitals and research units in 11 countries is at risk because of growing financial uncertainty and inadequate support from politicians within the Community.

City fraud plot men sentenced

A group of plotters almost cheated the City firm of stockbrokers, James Capel, out of £1.8 million, using a single forged cheque, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

They were foiled just in time when a clerk at Capel's became suspicious. Judge Lipfriend imposed £5,000 fines and suspended jail sentences on three north London men who admitted conspiracy to use the counterfeit cheque.

Barrie Liss, aged 42, a jeweller of Wembley Park, west London, was given a 14-month sentence. David Osterley, aged 45, an entertainment company director, of Howcroft Crescent, Finchley, north London, and a City coffee bar proprietor, Jean-Claire Itrelli, aged 41, of Holden Road, Finchley, were given 12 months each. Althree sentences were suspended for two years.

Chelsea sued for damages

The man said to have saved Chelsea Football Club sued it for £48,475 damages in the High Court yesterday. Mr Martin Spencer, a chartered accountant, was responsible for the radical restructuring of the club's finances in 1980 as its then chief executive and financial adviser.

He claims that his service contract was unlawfully terminated for no good reason. But the club has responded with its own claim for damages.

The action, likely to last a week, was basically a dispute between two individuals, Mr Spencer and Mr Ken Bates, Chelsea chairman, Mr Philip Vallance, counsel for Mr Spencer's company, Cancelltemp, said.

Mr Vallance told Mr Justice Hodgson that a five-year agreement for Mr Spencer to act as financial adviser from March 1980 was "wrongfully terminated" in April 1983. He said Mr Spencer was brought into the club in May 1976 after it had been relegated and was in financial difficulties.

He said: "Wind and tide went together and Mr Spencer reduced costs and introduced financial stability." He introduced Mr Bates to the club in 1982 knowing he was wealthy and interested in football and looking for a club in the south.

The club claimed he was in breach of the agreement and failed to carry out his duties as financial adviser. Mr Spencer denies the charge and claims the £48,475 is due under the terms of the agreement.

The case resumes today.

Rape law changes opposed

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

Home Office plans to end defendants' right to anonymity in rape cases were strongly attacked by Opposition MPs yesterday.

Mr Robin Corbett, shadow Home Office minister, said he hoped the Opposition would resist any move by the Government to repeal the law. "I think what is suggested is very wrong, because it would 'scrub' the quality of treatment which both the complainant woman and the defendant would have in a rape trial."

He said: "I think many people think there is no real equality between the victim and the offender, and I think it was a mistake in 1976 to put them on the same basis." He said it is arbitrary that someone cannot be named who has been accused of rape, but they can be named if they have been accused of a more serious offence like murder.

Cases of cruelty to animals soar

Animal cruelty cases investigated by the RSPCA last year increased by more than a third to 64,678, the highest cruelty tally in the charity's history.

RSPCA inspectors received more than a million telephone calls about cruelty and neglect last year, resulting in a post-war record number of animal cruelty convictions. Mr Anelay Hart, chairman of the RSPCA council, said in London yesterday.

Speaking at the launching of a campaign by the charity to raise £500,000 to fight animal neglect in England and Wales, Mr Hart said last year's figures showed an increasingly violent society. Britain, once a nation of animal lovers, now ranked fifth in the world's animal care league, Mr Frank Dixon Ward, the RSPCA's executive director, said.

The campaign, which invites the public to send a donation "which achieves far more in the end than cutting wire fences" is aimed at distancing the RSPCA from militant animal rights groups. Mr Dixon Ward added.

Allen brother death verdict

An open verdict was recorded at Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday on John Tynan-O'Mahoney, aged 52, the stage manager brother of Dave Allen, the comedian.

Peer cleared of link with body in sea

A police investigation has found no connection between Lord O'Hagen, Conservative European MP for Devon, and the death of a young druggie user whose body was found in the sea at Exeter two years ago.

Detective is accused over Derby killing

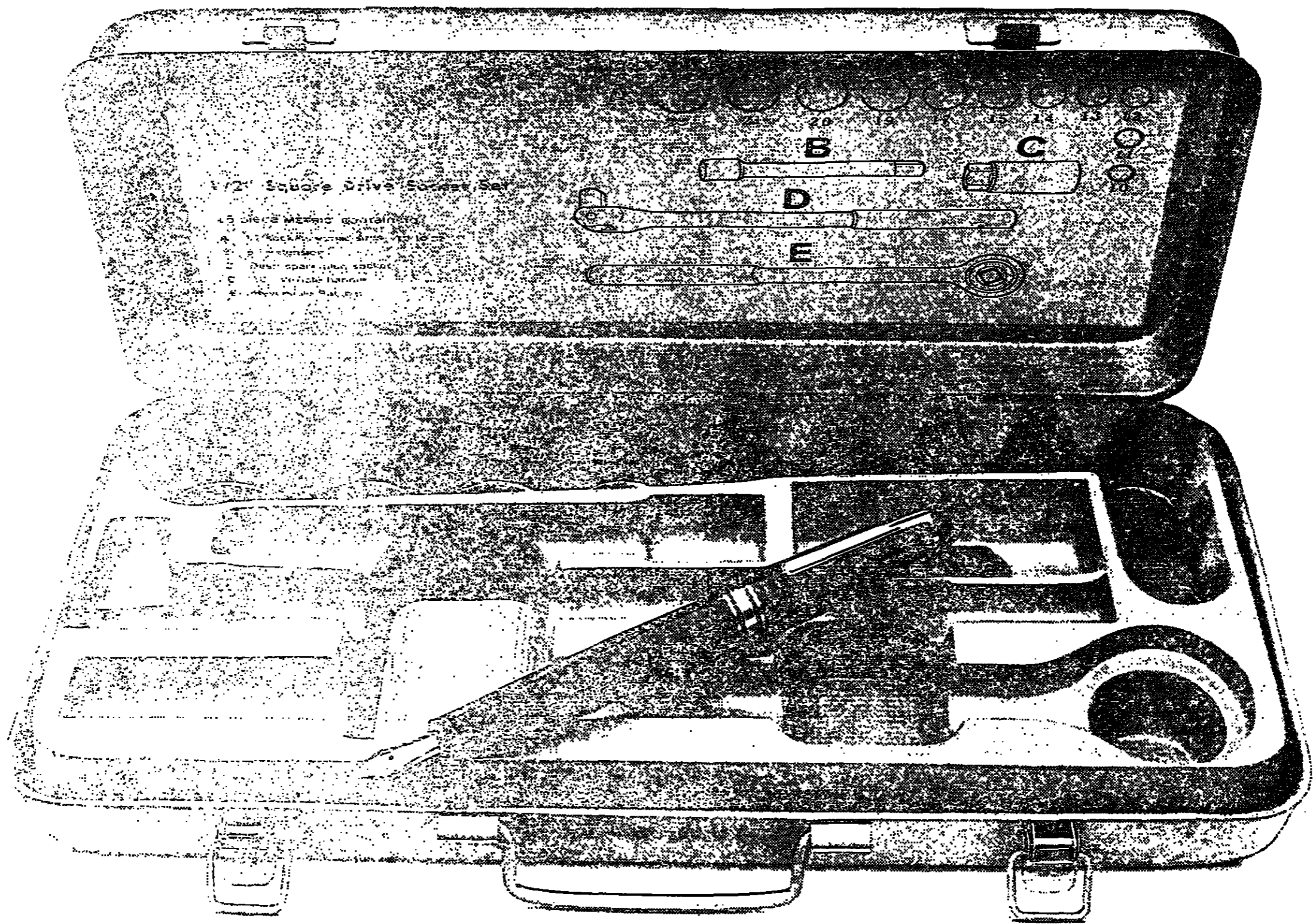
Det Sgt Robert Miles joined a concerted and fatal attack on a postal worker during an alcoholic Derby Day outing, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Advertisement for Scania trucks featuring a large image of a truck and the text: 'Reliability + fuel economy + high residual value = low-cost operation = Scania. Some trucks are more equal than others.'

Science research given £1/2m boost

The Natural Environment Research Council is to give an extra £550,000 to university research in environmental science and related projects.

additional pool granted to the council at the end of last year. All British research councils were given an extra £15 million for this year. The Natural Environment Research Council received £1.9 million, which allowed it to boost the 1986/87 university research.



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"Champagne, sir?"



"Your menu, sir."



"Enjoy your meal, sir."



"More coffee, sir?"



"The film soundtrack's on Channel 2."



"Would you like a blanket as well?"



"The local time? Just after 9, sir."



"Don't forget your hand baggage, sir."



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SPECTRUM

A dish for TV gluttons

Not long ago, perhaps as late as last week, it was enough to own a portable video Super-8 Camcorder and Cellnet telephone to feel at the forefront of white-hot technology. Not any more. For the status-conscious, a parabolic television antenna is what now piques the neighbours. It is a big white dish, generally between 1.5 and 1.8 metres across, on a tall tripod moored in concrete. Whether squatted to the ground like a shrubbery, or perched unblinking on the roof, it cannot be ignored.

Satellite television is the latest craze among gadget-lovers. It may turn your back garden into Jodrell Bank, but how else do you watch Norwegian religion or Lassie in German?

Advertisement for satellite TV channels: MIRRORVISION, SCREEN SPORT, TV5, SKY CHANNEL, THE ARTS CHANNEL, TELECLUB, FILMNET, LIFESTYLE, The Children's Channel, MUSIC BOX, SAT, PREMIERE.

available to local operators. The technology was picked up by ordinary Americans wanting to see television from around the world. Now it is estimated that 45,000 backyard dishes are sold there every month.

interest" from customers since starting before Christmas. It has sold 11, costing £2,100 each (plus VAT), mainly to Europeans living in southern England.

In Britain, the number of owners is in the hundreds, not thousands. They are an exclusive bunch of electronics enthusiasts, media folk and rich businessmen, especially European expatriates wishing to watch television in their own language. For less than £4,000, including VAT and installation costs, they can receive up to 21 TV channels from Britain and abroad.

news in French or German every night. Indeed, many of the early British systems were bought by the RAF and Army for teaching recruits Russian. However, the best case for satellite TV is made by the live 24-hour Cable News Network, relayed to Europe from Atlanta by the mighty Ted Turner, an interloper both admired and mistrusted by European broadcasters.

Megasat's four domestic systems range from £1,030 to the £2,850, which has a motor for pointing the dish towards the satellites and a computer tuning in each channel.

Although the importance of technology and retailing costs cannot be overlooked, the quality and quantity of the programmes will decide the future of satellite television.

But even among the big guns there is uncertainty and frantic activity. ITV has announced a Super Channel to carry the best of ITV and BBC programmes, though the BBC may yet move separately.

With so much money on the table, satellite television looks a good bet to happen, as turf accountants will soon confirm. But many questions remain, the most vital being: what national television is destined of money to fund even cheaper cable shows? Or is it all just pie in the sky?



Wine and song but no women: Laurie Lee in his attic, strictly a work area

Confessions of a cider man

It is three years since Laurie Lee invited anyone to his attic hideaway in Chelsea, a place full of locked rooms containing rejected manuscripts and other men's mad wives. Or so he says. He also says he doesn't own a telephone, so when one suddenly bleeps as we are matily clinking glasses to toast the forthcoming BBC television film of his classic, As I Walked Out One Morning, I tactfully disregard it.

Lee ignores it too. He gazes evasively through the window, the cracks of which are ineptly sealed with shrivelled brown sticky tape, and he enthuses about the view. "I watch Concorde go over, a beautiful sight, and Prince Andrew dipping his helicopter over the palace to wave to Ma'am, and the seagulls, a sign to batten down the hatches..."

I've depended on women as voluptuous refuges

lyrical autobiographies in the English language, Cider with Rosie is a bit of an old rascal. The literary world tells tales of his partiality for the hard stuff, how he fell off the podium at a poetry-reading, how he smuggles drink into readings in ink bottles.

You can forgive bawdiness from the man who wrote: "Such a morning it is when love/leaves through geranium windows/and calls with a cockerel's tongue..." And you can countenance a certain amount of intemperate rambling from the man who, at 19, left his mother's cottage to walk to London and then through Spain, from Vigo to Andalusia, playing a violin for money as he went.

In Laurie Lee's Chelsea attic, Val Hennessy finds a new volume is quietly stirring

young man taking my part is much better looking than I was, the music by Julian Bream..." But what he really wants to discuss is his appearance on Wogan and how he got up Wogan's nose.

"I soon realized that the twinkle in Wogan's eye turns to ice if you pull his leg", he grumbles, his own astute eyes glowering through smeared bi-focals. "When I told him not to interrupt me, he drew back looking coldly displeased. I'd taken along my flute to surprise him with an impromptu Irish air. In case the excitement of talking to Wogan drove my fingers from my mind, I carried a card with instructions to myself saying: 'Three fingers down, two fingers up'."

"I began telling him how I've always depended on women as voluptuous refuges. How I often live alone, because unlike certain more august writers, like Blake and Dickens, I can't work with women in the room."

And that's it. He invites me to peep at a heap of letters, lists, bills and poems in a room of unpeppable chaos, and steers me downstairs and out into the gloomy street, where love is definitely not calling with cockerel's tongue but where we spot the first handful of snowdrops thrusting up through the grime and

appears not to hear. When I inquire whether he's slightly deaf he replies: "My dear daughter Hesse, who gives me kisses in exchange for pound notes, describes me to people saying, 'he stumbles and he's a bit deaf but he's ever so young...' One never says one's deaf, you know, as one never says one's an alcoholic. Incidentally, my GP recently asked me what I'd drunk that day and I replied two beers and a short which is alcoholic code, as all GPs know, for 15 beers and half a bottle of whisky."

At this point the post arrives. Lee nips into the hall, wildly sitting open envelopes until, like a sniffer-dog pouncing on drugs, he finds a cheque. While I ask a feeble question about his work in progress he waves the cheque gleefully like a flag. "That's the question I always shy away from", he replies, topping up the glasses. "Furthermore, I don't even think of myself as a writer now. More a communicator and interpreter of something which I still think of as being magically unique, that is this world and this life which, in spite of shadows and occasional pain, has been a perpetual excitement and joy. I never intended to be a writer. I left the village school at 14. I just scribbled for my family and girlfriends. When I was in my 20s a rather grand

I don't even think of myself as a writer now

girlfriend found my poems on the floor and persuaded Cyril Connolly to get them published. Bemoaning the fact that he writes very slowly, he suddenly lets slip that the sequel to his half-a-million bestseller, As I Walked Out, is nearing completion. "It's a book of defeat, pain and disaster. About a winter when the anti-Franco side were in retreat, Franco was winning and our side had no arms. I'm also writing my Deathbed Confessions, but that's all I'm prepared to say. No one wants to hear an old poet rambling pompously on about his next book..."

Is this the kind of children's...

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH YES OR NO

Survey table with questions: Would you treat a child suffering from leukaemia? Would you retain Society's hard won control over poisons, diphtheria, TB and smallpox? Would you agree we must have medicines and vaccines which have been tested for safety? Would you agree that we need to alleviate and control, for example, cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and heart disease? Would you like to see a cure for AIDS and Legionnaire's disease?

Animal experimentation has made an essential contribution to the control and eradication of serious diseases. Much more requires to be done - this work must continue.

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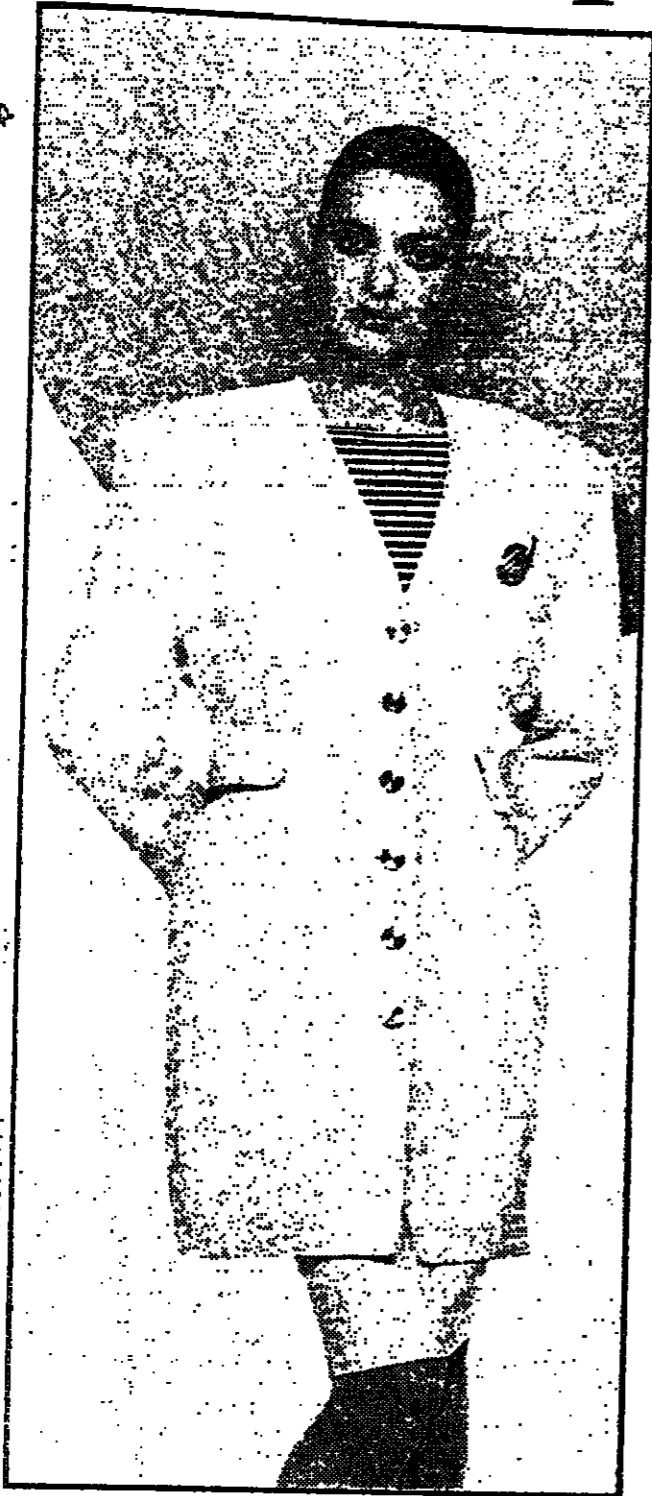
Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS: 1 Tremble (6), 2 Sundry black (5), 3 Rough medicine (7), 4 False impression (8), 5 Beloved (4), 6 Tanned (7), 7 Immoral habit (4), 8 Qualified (8), 9 Bohemian sign (7), 10 Poisonous (5), 11 Cow shelter (4), 12 Showy clothing (6), 13 Hippocampus (7), 14 Mackerel (5), 15 Dotted recess (4), 16 Small salty fish (7), 17 Pugnacious (5), 18 Wallow (3), 19 Crumb (4), 20 Mackerel (5), 21 Torture (6), 22 Salubrious (11), 23 Mystery (4), 24 Sledge (4), 25 Chastity (5), 26 Mother country (5), 27 Covetous (5), 28 Ravenous (5), 29 Randomly (5), 30 Floor (4), 31 Elite (3), 32 Sled (4).

Michael Watts

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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Shaping up for a spring clean



Clean is the message and shape is the story for spring. Simple clothes make their impact with sharp cut rather than fancy detail.

once designed costumes for the Crazy Horse strip show. He has a cartoon-strip view of women and one that flouts the feminist fashion creed.

This tender tailoring gives us fashion on the curve. Although there is a hint of the sharp-angled 1960s, the new clothes are drawn with a compass rather than a set-square.

Shoulders are still padded but bust, waist and hips are all rounded. The new silhouette comes much closer to the body line, with twin seams gathering in the folds of fabric to make jackets fit for spring.

Alaia has also acted as a catalyst for other designers who have now thrown off layers and shrouds and brought the body back into focus in their own way.

French designers, who are always strong on tailoring, have been quick to develop the style. The young Parisian designer Myrene de Premonville is in the new mood, and so are young British names like John Rocha and Jasper Conran.

The curvy jacket and slim skirt are the linchpins of the new spring style. The skirt comes mostly in just one shape: tubular and on-the-knee. It is worn with flat pumps and crepe tights or high heels and glossy legs.

King of the curves, and the alchemist of this fashion change, is Paris designer Azzedine Alaia. He moulds corsets of wool jersey and stretch viscose to the female body. Those who dismiss his outline as extreme forget that the first statements about changing fashion are always dramatic.

Alaia's new collection is based on an all-in-one garment which he calls, appropriately enough, "the body". The Tunisian-born designer, who stands waist-high to his favourite muse, Grace Jones,

the riding coat and slim skirt are the linchpins of the new spring style. The skirt comes mostly in just one shape: tubular and on-the-knee. It is worn with flat pumps and crepe tights or high heels and glossy legs.

gaberline, make the fabric story of the season.

The jacket is the key purchase, buttoned high and always moulded with seaming from bust to waist and hips. There are some curvy jackets among the oversize in the chain stores, but this is mostly a look that is coming from the designers and will only later work through high streets and wardrobes at the lower prices.

The newest shape of jacket is the riding coat — a three-quarter-length jacket following the body to mid-thigh and

worn over a slim short skirt. This was a significant shape in the Paris couture collections and is already on sale from the forward-looking ready-to-wear designers.

The riding coat shadows the body gracefully, shapes a less-than-perfect body, and makes an outfit that expresses fashion's new sophistication after a decade of sporty separates.

There is more than a hint of the 1960s about some of the jackets, which are round-necked, collarless and high

buttoned. A confetti sprinkling of buttons down the front is the only detail to break up the uncluttered line. Keeping it simple is also the message for hair and accessories which all need to be sharp and clean.

Under the jacket goes the simplest sweater, a ribbed polo neck or cut-away top (also redolent of the 1960s).

The shapely jacket is often worn over nothing at all. For the suit has come back not just to the body-line, but in a way that makes it sexy, young and fun.

Centre: Azzedine Alaia's dramatic S-line, cut to cling in shiny stretch viscose. Body-moulding bronze dress with polo collar, £172, wide and shaped tan leather belt, three-quarter length fitted cardigan coat with padded shoulders, £215. All by Azzedine Alaia from Joseph Pour La Maison, Sloane Street, SW1. Glossy tights by Aristoc

Far left: Hourglass three-quarter fitted riding coat in herringbone silk with gilt buttons. By John Rocha £215 from Gallery 28, Brook Street, W1; Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches; The Changing Room, Tunbridge Wells, Kent; Chinatown Clothing Company, Dublin. Striped cotton sweater, £30, slim gaberdine skirt, £107, both by Edina Ronay, 141 Kings Road, SW3; Libertys, Regent Street, W1. Gilded twist earrings and brooch

Top right: Gently fitted double-breasted jacket, £165, and slim skirt, £72, by Nicole Farhi in rose pink wool gaberdine, also navy and jade. Soft white blouse, £59.95 by Joseph Jannard, all from Farnwicks, New Bond Street

Right: Rajah jacket in canary yellow wool gaberdine, fitted thigh-length and collarless with slender skirt. Suit by Premonville at Deswain, £395, also in white or black from Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1 and branches. Zip-up matt black swimsuit, £65, by Katharine Hammett from 50 South Molton Street, W1 and 1248 Kings Road, SW3 from March; Corniche, Edinburgh; Review, Cheltenham; Square, Bath, Belt, Alaia.

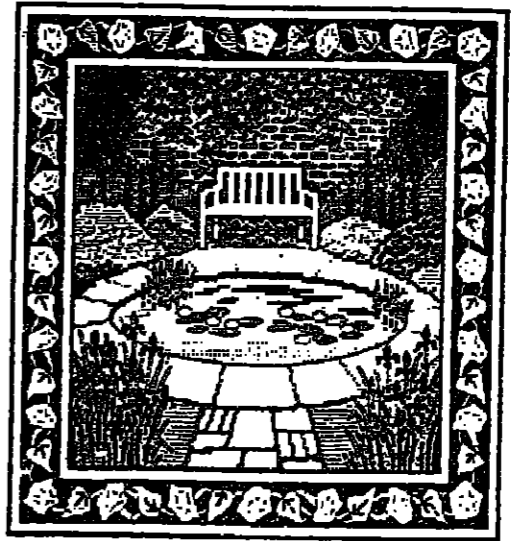
All jewellery from Cobra and Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, SW1 Hair by Lawrence at John Freda

Photographs by David Bailey

A NEW DESIGN BY EDWIN BELCHAMBER

EHRMAN TAPESTRY

Last year Edwin Belchamber designed a lovely tapestry for us inspired by the garden at Sissinghurst in Kent. It was such a success that he has now produced a pair for it. The Lily Pond and surrounding garden are in soft blues and greens with the wall and bench in tones of brown and beige. The picture is enclosed by a border of pale blue flowers on a bottle green background. Designed as a picture it would also make a charming cushion.



The design measures 14 1/2" x 14 1/2" and is worked in simple half-cross stitch. It is printed in the full ten colours: Grass green, bottle green, powderblue, olive, hazelnut, royalblue, fawn, Frenchnavy, a very deep green and beige. The canvas is 12 holes to the inch and the kit comes complete with all the required yarns from the Appleton tapestry range, needle and instructions. All for £19.25 including postage and packing. Use FREEPOST—No stamp needed.

Ehrman, 21-22 Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4AA. Partners JI & R Ehrman. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Money back if kit returned unused within 14 days.

To: EHRMAN, FREEPOST, LONDON, W8 4BR. Please send me... tapestry kits at £19.25 each. I enclose cheque/P.O. made out to Ehrman for £..... (Total) Name..... Address.....

KISS OF THE BRIDAL WOMAN

The romance of the bride is the theme of store displays this month. The young make-up ranges are also in the wedding tradition for they have borrowed grand old names, come up with new textures and shadowed it all with something blue.

Eyes are in focus with duo sets of strong shadow (£2.95) using mixes of pink and mauve or lime and apricot, with cheeky names like Buckingham Royals and Camden Look. There are also strong lip colours suggesting Bad Girls, who wear bright Piccadilly Pink or Soho Orange.

Young accessories to light up a teenage make-up corner are fat blusher brushes in vivid Day-glo colours.

Lips are in the news with the Nouvelle Kissine range from Miss Selfridge's Kiss and Make-up cosmetic collection. Refreshing colours for spring honeymooners are tangerine, pomegranate and tequila among a cocktail of equally delicious shades.



Heels as well as skirts are going up in the world. The slim-line silhouette and its short and sassy headline demand a change of pace for shoes.

The shape of the heel can vary from a teetering stiletto to a Louis heel with less height but the same feminine curve. Cuban heels are sharply angled, ending on fine spindly points. If heels are low they are still pointed, but triangular, so low-heeled pumps are now low-heeled court shoes.

As a half-way measure, the wedge heel is a strong story this season. The 1980s' wedges are not the chunky oversized soles of the 1970s, but more

glamorous sandals with delicately cut-out sides and peep-toes. The Hollywood feel brings brighter metallic colours. Charles Jourdan stitch rich bronze leather to a strong plastic wedge, and Russell and Bromley have a more lightweight look with cut-out shapes and a hint of glitter.

Shoes echo the Chanel influence on spring suits. The elegant sling-back is a classic made incomparably by Chanel. The sling-back is also

Sling-it

made by Marilyn Anselm for Hobbs. She has recreated this chic French style with a lightweight co-respondent sling-back in smooth white leather and a shiny toe-cap in red or navy blue. Pied a Terre have also followed suit with a squared-off toe which gives a city-smart look to a soft leather sling-back, shoe tied at the heel with a chic leather bow.

Rebecca Tyrrel

Is this the only kind of bird your children watch?

If so, then you should give them a gift of a year's membership to The Young Ornithologists' Club. It's the junior section of the RSPB, and it will make them look at the birds and wildlife around them with fresh, eager eyes. Not square eyes.



RSPB For further information write to: YOC Dept, 199, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG8 2DL. Tel. Days on 01767 60951.

THE TIMES DIARY

Party tricks

Eleventh-hour Tory protests brought Channel 4's Sunday night documentary *My Britain - David Steel* within a whisker of being pulled off the air. The hour-long programme in which the Liberal leader paraded his personal vision of Britain, at one stage button-holed Derek Hatton, was made by independent producer Justin Cartwright, a former producer of Liberal party political broadcasts. The prospect was too much for one Tory supporter who contacted the IBA after reading a paragraph in *Liberal News* enthusing that the programme was the "best party political" ever made. After an emergency viewing and discussions with Channel 4 boss Jeremy Isaacs, the IBA narrowly decided that the programme should be shown. Tory Central Office said yesterday it too had contacted the IBA - to discover, before making a formal complaint, which Tory politician would be given a similar platform. I hope it won't be too upset when I give the answer: Jim Prior.

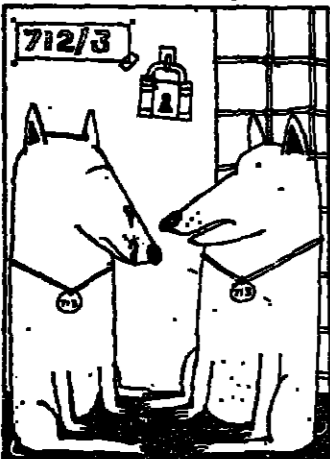
Deadlock

One of the Worthing brothers who vowed to starve until the local council reversed its decision to close the town's Connaught Theatre was said yesterday to be near death. Michael Wilson is now bedridden and semi-comatose as the two approached their 44th day of fasting. His brother Roy, whose idea it was, himself weighs just over seven stone. "I feel rather bad about the affair now," said Roy. "I recently announced the end of our fast on local radio, but Michael would have none of it." If the fast continues, both could die before the Connaught curtain twitches: the council has delayed any decision on its future until March 6. "It's a tricky situation, but a democratic decision has been taken, and we cannot act under a threat of this kind," a council spokesman said.

But no shells

The day the petrol pumps ran with water will not soon be forgotten at the Hawes Landing Service Station in Edinburgh. No sooner had a customer filled up and driven away than his car broke down. When station manager Brian Clark towed the car in, he found the petrol tank full of sea water. By then six other enraged motorists had broken down, all within a mile of filling up. "It cost me a lot of time and effort overhauling the engines," said Clark, "but most of the customers were happy when I gave them some bonus petrol." Petrol suppliers Unipart, who had pumped 150,000 gallons of ballast sea water into the station's underground tanks, yesterday declined to comment.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's MPs trying to understand the new Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill that I feel sorry for"

Age no bar

I would take with a hefty block of rock salt the notion that Lord Hailsham and the Law Society are at daggers drawn over rights of audience and legal aid fees. On Saturday night, only 24 hours after the Society said it was considering taking the Lord Chancellor to court over the legal aid dispute, its West London branch wined and dined him at a lavish banquet. Far from laying into the man who has confessed devotion to his own branch of the profession, the Bar, the Law Society president, Alan Leslie, went to great lengths to emphasize that their disagreements were "nothing personal". In a wine-curdling show of affection, the Society actually handed Hailsham a Valentine card.

Foreign parts

Scottish geography is not Denis Thatcher's strong suit. Not long ago, on a trip north of the border with his wife, he started his Scottish hosts by making Aberdeen for Dundee. Worse was to come. "I can't understand all the fuss about this place Cardlake," mused Denis to all and sundry at the height of the Gargosh affair.

Here's a tip

Guidance at last for diners at Just Around the Corner, that embarrassing new restaurant on the Finchley Road in London where payment is left to your discretion. Four months after it opened, owner Peter Ilic tells me the most he has received for his six-course meal is £80 and the least £8, left by two girls. "If anything, customers are leaving more than I expected," he says happily.

Why I could not fight on

Frederik van Zyl Slabbert explains his decision to resign as leader of South Africa's official opposition party

President Botha said at the recent opening of Parliament that South Africa had "outgrown the outdated concept of apartheid." Oliver Tambo, head of the banned African National Congress, is on record as saying that if apartheid disappears completely, the ANC would reconsider its commitment to armed struggle and violence as a way to bring about change and would operate peacefully and legally inside South Africa.

Chief Buthelezi, president of Inkatha, has said that if the government clearly commits itself to abandon apartheid he would work enthusiastically for an alternative. He also urges the legalization of all political prisoners so that all organizations could compete openly and legally for support.

So what is the problem? Surely the germ of a solution to the conflict in South Africa should be possible if the major antagonists hold such attitudes?

It all depends what is meant by apartheid. I have come across considerable confusion outside South Africa when asking people: "What do you mean when you say apartheid must go?" Some mean white domination, to which the South African government responds by pointing out that black majority rule would mean exploitation, of which examples can easily be found elsewhere. Others mean racism; the point is easily made that racism is a pervasive phenomenon.

But the outstanding characteristic of apartheid is that it is not subject to ambiguity or controversy about whether it is domination, exploitation or racism.

ism, compared to other situations where these problems exist. Apartheid is concrete, demonstrable and unique to South Africa. Apartheid is law. There is a law, the Population Registration Act, that classifies every South African at birth into a particular racial or ethnic group. Another law, the Group Areas Act, allocates residential and other land according to racial and ethnic definitions. In short, apartheid is the most comprehensive system of legalized racial domination, exploitation and racism devised by any government since the war.

Apartheid was the Afrikaner nationalist's attempt to cope with the challenge of postwar decolonization, while maintaining his position of dominance. This dominance is called "self-determination" for the Afrikaners as a group. Afrikaner nationalists have used the bedrock of legalized apartheid as the basis of "self-determination" of other "groups" which they have one-sidedly identified and classified.

By opposing apartheid one is not denying the reality of racial or ethnic groups or the fact that it may be difficult to find a democratic solution for them to live together in the same society. By opposing apartheid one is opposing the right that one racial/ethnic group claims for itself to manipulate racial and ethnic groups to its own advantage, and to the obvious disadvantage of others.

As leader of the official opposition Progressive Federal Party in the South African parliament, I set myself two objectives: to persuade as many whites as possible that apartheid must go, and to negotiate with the government to bring that about. After six years I concluded that although my party had made some headway on the first, I was wasting my time on the second.

The implementation of the new three-chamber parliament (for whites, Indians and "coloureds") was a retrogressive step which entrenched the Population Registration Act. Nevertheless, I was willing to explore whether the government would use it to get rid of old apartheid structures or whether it would use it to extend its logic to new ones. My disillusionment became final when President Botha defined the so-called guidelines within which the excluded black majority could be constitutionally accommodated.

The government was not the slightest intention of abandoning compulsory racial and ethnic group membership as a basis for further constitutional development; on the contrary, that is its fundamental precondition for any reform. Botha did not say that apartheid is dead or is to be abandoned. He said South Africa "has outgrown the outdated concept of apartheid", but not a new modernized concept of apartheid. The "self-determination

whites" is still to be preserved by extending and using apartheid as entrenched in the three-chamber parliament. Botha should be taken at his word: concerned people should not read into his reform initiatives that are not there.

Last year I had at least five personal interviews with the president, spoke to several cabinet ministers, and gave evidence to cabinet committees. I explored one question: is the government prepared to restore freedom of choice by repealing segregated residential, educational and political structures?

I had one last hope: perhaps the traumatic events of 1985 would somehow bring change. An indication of this would come in the president's speech opening the 1986 session of parliament, and the no-confidence debate which followed. I told a few of my colleagues confidentially that if Botha really shifted on the question of freedom of choice, I saw some reason for continuing in my present role. If not, I had no further initiatives which I could offer my supporters and was wasting their and my time by continuing.

I want to explore other ways of getting rid of apartheid. The leaders of the ANC, Inkatha, United Democratic Front, the Azanian People's Organization and other extra-parliamentary opposition groups are absolutely correct. There can be no negotiations, no stability, no cooperation, as long as the South African government continues with apartheid. Apartheid must go, in every legal sense of the word.

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Iain Carson looks East, not West, for a tie-up that makes sense

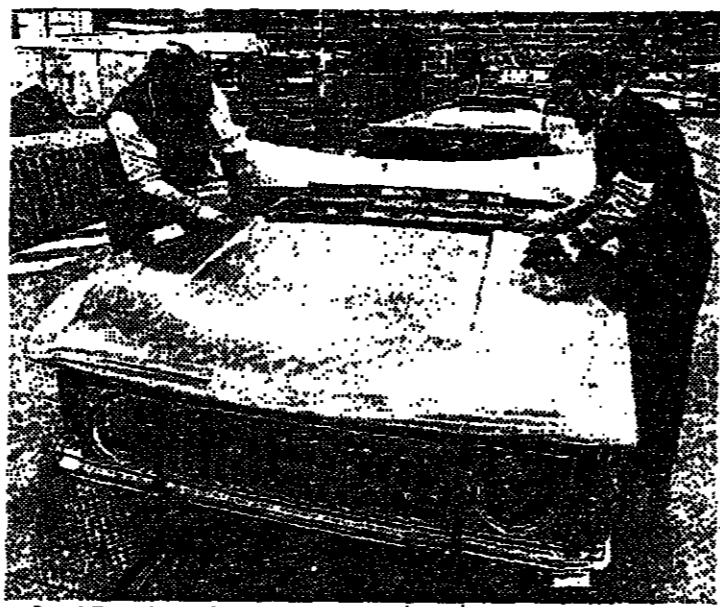
BL's best bet for prosperity

Six years after it decided to forget its principles and bail out British Leyland, Mrs Thatcher's government is now haunted by the very success of that policy. After the bail-out, ministers by and large left BL's bosses to get on with the job. Subsidies have all but been eliminated and the 1985 figures might even show a tiny net profit. This improvement in the company's fortunes (from losses of nearly £400m five years ago) has encouraged thoughts of privatization.

Profits will never be big enough for a wholesale privatization; but neither are the constituent parts, now figuring in the arguments at Westminster, in such bad shape that they have to be reamalgamated into foreign multi-nationals interested only in buying brand names or market shares. Government ministers seem to have lost their nerve and to be unaware of the value of the state-owned group.

The fracas over Austin Rover furnishes a classic example of the muddle between myth and reality: there are options other than sale to a foreign buyer and still more subsidies. Austin Rover is a midget in European markets, trailing well behind the big six - Volkswagen and Fiat (12.9 and 12.2 per cent respectively), followed by Ford Europe, Peugeot and General Motors (each with a market share of between 11 and 12 per cent) and Renault (10.7 per cent). Austin Rover's production of just over 450,000 cars a year is barely a third of that of the big companies, with, it would appear, a consequent loss of economy of scale.

Moreover, even the big six are having a hard time, since capacity exceeds demand by some 2.5 million vehicles, taking into account European exports and imports from, notably, Japan. Austin Rover is the only European locally-owned volume carmaker to have less than a quarter of its home market. That makes it harder to penetrate other European markets where marketing and distribution is a cut-throat and expensive business. Worse, Austin Rover has failed consistently to hit the 20 per cent share of the British market which the company has long seen as critical to its survival. Even with a full range of new models that are nothing to be ashamed of, Austin



Land Rover's production line. The firm could again be a winner if Paul Channon steers it in the right direction

Rover is still fighting GM Vauxhall for second place. Its 17.9 per cent - against GM's rising share of 16.17 per cent - is far behind Ford, the leader, with 26.5 per cent. Despite its bright new models, its newly automated factories at Longbridge and Cowley and its improved labour productivity, Austin Rover has fallen short because its recovery coincided with a tougher British car market. A few years ago GM decided to take on Ford in Europe, where the latter had long been much stronger. Backed by reviving profits in the United States, these two powerful forces started slugging it out - most intensively in Britain - with big discounts to win and defend market shares. Austin Rover was ground between these two international giants.

No one is making money in this battle: in 1984 Ford in Britain incurred an operating loss of £14 million and Vauxhall lost £9.4 million; the latest figure for Austin Rover shows an operating profit of only £600,000 in the first half of 1985. The future looks even tougher. Nissan, loaded with government grants to start car production at Washington, County Durham - on the principle, as a minister told me, "if you can't beat them, join them" - will produce its first vehicles this summer. If all goes well, it intends to increase produc-

tion from 300,000 vehicles to 100,000. The immediate target is the fleet market, in which Nissan cars can qualify as British. (Indeed, with 80 per cent local content they will be more British than Ford Fierras or Sierras (62 per cent and 75 per cent local content). Next it hopes to export from Britain to other EEC countries.

Changes on the broader European scene favouring an Austin Rover renaissance are unlikely. France's state-owned Renault company, having shed 25,000 jobs in the face of a £1 billion loss last year, will outlive the Eiffel Tower. Despite losses, or at best a pitiful return on capital, none of the other producers is likely to go out of business.

Against this bleak landscape, however, there are two developments which suggest that Austin Rover need not be a lost cause. First, the conventional wisdom on the economics of car production is being revised. Not long ago Giovanni Agnelli, head of the Fiat group, said that only car makers producing two million vehicles a year could survive. Now he says the critical figure is about one million. Why the revision?

Agnelli's two million figure was predicated on a continued customer swing towards small, light and economical cars in which the price would be a significant factor.

This, it was thought, would favour the international giants making similar cars worldwide. That forecast has turned out to be false. The variety of models seen on any road in the mid-1980s, even in down-at-heel Britain, shows that motorists want more from a car than basic - different permutations of comfort, style and speed. Exit the world car.

Another factor is the fundamental change in car production. Henry Ford's assembly lines were the epitome of contemporary manufacturing techniques - mass production of a few models by an extreme division of labour. Today we are witnessing another revolution: smaller runs of different models without loss of mass production economies. Microelectronics now make it possible to programme machines to make model A in the morning and model B in the afternoon. This flexible manufacturing system mitigates Austin Rover's puny scale.

Austin Rover could also benefit from joint development and sharing of components with other producers. It already uses Volkswagen gearboxes in some of its models. But while sharing components means a lesser risk than developing your own, the rewards are also reduced.

Austin Rover could best reduce the risks and capital investment without sacrificing too much profit by further joint development of whole cars with Honda. Smaller than the mighty Toyota and Nissan, Honda desperately needs help to increase its share of the European market. Its cars, more than those of any other Japanese manufacturer, have tended towards European styling: its latest Accord models rival the bottom end of the BMW range.

That is precisely where Austin Rover should be headed - not into outright luxury cars but into fewer models, each of high quality and styling within its category of size - giving up pretensions to compete head-on with the giants in basic volume cars. Paul Channon, the new Industry Secretary, should get on a plane to Tokyo and mend fences, fast. After all, the Japanese today can teach us more about making cars than the Americans.

The author is a reporter and presenter on Channel 4's *The Business Programme*.

Mary Dejevsky

Digby Anderson

May Thatcher stay outside

During the Westland saga, a journalist wrote that the country was awaiting with "bated breath" the outcome of the following day's Cabinet meeting. So I took particular care to inspect the chaps in the bar at the Royal Albert.

You couldn't actually see from their chests if they were holding any reeder in their bowels: television sets awaiting new "developments", remained as usual. In the group was talking about television, another, slightly younger, predictably about each other. It was the same story at the Newport Arms. Oblivious to the crisis, they carried on playing an imported variation of snooker, their breathing totally unaffected.

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Economists of the "public choice" school point out in detail, if less elegantly, the *Yes, Prime Minister* message that politicians and public "servants" are driven

by the same self-seeking that operates in the private sector. Neo-conservatives such as Glazer and Kristol show that the perversion of policy decisions, the way they fail to benefit their apparently intended customer-beneficiaries but enrich their producers, is not just Jim Hacker's problem but one of politicized, bureaucratized decision-making. Why else would the TV series sell to 46 countries with different political systems?

Thatcherism is not just for free contractors exchanged between individuals (the market); it is against public bureaucracies, the politicization of life, inevitably against politicians. For some, the most attractive thing about Mrs Thatcher has been the way she has remained an outsider, deeply antipathetic to politicians, their system and ambitions, while herself in the supreme political office. Given the pressures, it is remarkable how she has not been corrupted and become another politician, an insider.

Many politicians and journalists have offered her advice on how to recover from the Westland setback. Much of it is about presentation. Some suggest she should rest on her considerable achievements of reducing inflation and trade union reform and coast to the next election. Others, notably Michael Heseltine, want new policies, more intervention. Heseltine apparently shares the delusion popular with many of Mrs Thatcher's critics, including the authors of the Archbishop's report on the industrial crisis, that contemporary Britain, in which more than half the population receive their income from the state as wages or hand-outs, is some sort of extreme laissez-faire society beset with individualism. One wonders what level of collectivization would satisfy them.

Before taking any of that advice, she should weigh not only the economic and immediate political consequences but what it would make of her. No doubt she could appear more compassionate, reasonable, or moderate, but what if the price were that she became another politician, an insider? Then she would lose that constituency which is bored with politics and distrustful of politicians, which snookered and so unabatedly breathed its way through the Westland "crisis". Maybe it's a small group and dispensable: the *Yes, Prime Minister* viewing figures suggest otherwise.

The author is director of the *Social Affairs Unit*.

moreover . . . Miles Kingston

Bonhomie is the name

There is a new offshoot of Friends of the Earth called The Arts for the Earth (Tate) which aims to raise funds for ecology by staging artistic events. What kind of events? Well, auctioning a lot of specially donated cartoons, that sort of thing.

That's what they did at Bonham's auction rooms in Knightsbridge the other evening, so I went along to say hello to old cartoonist friends, stare at the old cartoons, and maybe make the odd bid or two, though at the few auctions I have ever been to I have always found it impossible to attract the auctioneer's attention.

Well, of course, when they hold up cartoons at auctions you don't see very much (that's what viewing days are for), so my attention wandered to the whispering of the cartoonists round me: not all of it very respectful. One drawing showed a nuclear cooling tower with tulips growing out of the top as if it were a vase. "Very East European," said Chic Jacob. "Flower in the gun barrel." "Daffodil growing in concrete," said Ian Heath. "You name it, we put a flower in it."

Another drawing showed a hedgehog making advances to a hairbrush. "There's a novel idea," said Nick Baker. "When was the first hedgehog-hairbrush cartoon, Chic?" "1890?" "Late as that, was it?" But most of the cartoons got their approval. Indeed, a *Peanuts* strip by Charles Schulz got a bid of £230 from Ian Heath. It was the winning bid. He looked shaken.

"These Schulz originals are extremely rare," said auctioneer Nicholas Bonham strictly. "That one went very cheap. I hope to get a lot more for the next one."

I think it was Bonham who presented the best value of the wonderful drawing? He said in mid-lot. "You're out of your minds, I'd like this myself in fact. I'm going to bid £80 for this great drawing, £80 I bid, £80 with the

auctioneer . . . My God, isn't anyone going to get me out of this, please, somebody bid more than 80, don't let me end up with this . . ."

He also believed in establishing relations with characters in the audience, variously known as The Man At The Back Whose Name I Can't Remember, The Woman At The Front Who Bids For Everything, and My Wife.

"Do you really mean that bid?" he said to the latter, then to the rest of us. "It's my wife, you see. It's not coming out of the house-keeping, you know."

Wife: "You don't give me any housekeeping."

The only person who fazed him at all was The Woman At The Front Who Bid For Everything, who went to £500 for a tiny drawing of a pink hippopotamus. Even Nicholas Bonham felt this might be too high. "My God, that's about £100 a square inch. Are you sure you want to . . . ? You're really bidding £500 . . . You what? Oh, that's all right then. She needs it to complete a pair," he explained.

I suddenly realized that Bonham's technique was very like getting the audience excited, hypnotized even, insistently repeating numbers with religious fervour . . . "80, 80, I want to hear you, 100, 100, give me 120, let me hear you say 120, yeah, Lord, I know you can say 120."

He was wonderful. He got the next Charles Schulz up to £700 and the last one of all to £2,800, after he had barked down a telephone at a transatlantic bidder, though even Bonham looked vaguely surprised at someone paying £2,800 for a drawing strip. Not half so surprised, though, as Ian Heath. He, remember, had got the early Schulz for £230.

I did make one or two bids myself, but the auctioneer never notices me, not even Nicholas Bonham. But I must get to his next show; it has to be one of the best bits of theatre in the West End.

by Anderson
Thatcher
outside



1 Pennington Street, London E1. Telephone 01 481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 18 1905

The year 1905 saw Russia beset on two fronts at home by workers in open revolt against oppression and autocracy; abroad by its losses in the Russo-Japanese war. In January about 1,000 people had been killed in front of the Winter Palace when troops fired on a defenceless crowd. In retaliation the Czar's uncle the Grand Duke Serge was assassinated.

GRAND DUKE SERGE

KILLED BY A BOMB. ARREST OF THE MURDERERS.

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 17.

At Moscow today, as the Grand Duke Serge was driving in the direction of the Kremlin Palace from the Historical Museum, he was assassinated.

Further details have been received regarding the assassination of the Grand Duke Serge in Moscow.

His Imperial Highness was driving from the Nicholas Palace through the Senate Square at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Behind his carriage came two cabs. At the Law Courts a sledge in which two men were seated, one of them dressed like a workman, shot out ahead of the Grand Duke's carriage. It then slowed up and allowed the letter to pass. At this moment a bomb was thrown beneath the carriage. The explosion was so great that all the windows in the Law Courts were smashed, and the report was heard outside the city.

The carriage was blown to pieces, nothing but the four wheels remaining. The horses were unhurt, and bolted.

The Grand Duke Serge was killed instantaneously, his head and limbs being torn from the body. The driver was so seriously injured that he died on the way to the hospital.

The murderers were at once arrested. Their names are not known. One of them coolly remarked, "I don't care. I have done my job."

At the moment of the explosion the Grand Duchess Serge was at the Kremlin, engaged in superintending work for the wounded in the war. She was about to proceed to the house of the Governor-General, where she intended to join her husband, and her carriage was waiting outside the Kremlin.

After the explosion a policeman observed a man running from the scene of the murder, and in spite of the fact that the man carried a revolver, succeeded in overtaking and arresting him. The man did not attempt to deny that he was the assassin, and explained that the revolver was intended to hinder his arrest.

WOMEN'S APPEAL TO THE TSARITSA

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 17

The women of Moscow have forwarded the following address, bearing a large number of signatures, to the Empress Alexandra.

We Russian women - mothers, wives, and sisters of the warriors who are shedding their blood in the Far East for the beloved fatherland - address ourselves to you, O Sovereign, believing that with your motherly heart you feel all the horrors of war as we do. You will understand that a woman ardently desires peace. Peace is being violated, not only before the frontiers of our country, but even in the heart of the fatherland. We see with terror in the recent troubles the beginning of calamities that may crush all Russia if the Emperor does not seek, in unity with his people, to avert them. All the bases of life are shaken and all moral foundations are trembling. Mothers, whose hearts are being broken, and whose hearts are breaking. They cannot remain silent. They feel that many more lives will be sacrificed for what is happening is not spontaneous, but the result of earlier calamities. The Emperor can still save Russia by his pious will. Be our ruler and pray the Emperor that he may listen to the voice of the country and the cry of its mothers. If the Emperor leads the country into the paths of greatness, its women will help in the work of its organization by guiding their brothers and children into the new way and a life of light.

THE RUSSIAN UNREST

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 17

The strike is now rapidly extending. At 4 o'clock this afternoon the men employed at the Neva Thread Works, numbering 2,400, joined the movement.

Winter's tale

From the Reverend John W. Latham

Sir, Some of the coldest temperatures recorded in England recently have not been in Kent, as reported by you on February 11, but here in Florence, where, at 7.45 am on February 10, the temperature in a garden protected by a hedge in a tree-protected low-lying area was 4°F. On January 17, 1985, the temperature was 2°F, again lower than anything reported elsewhere.

This is a very climatically favoured area but when we go to extremes, we go to extremes. Yours faithfully,

J. W. LATHAM, The Vicarage, Florence, Northampton.

No decline in Tory position

From Sir Alan Percival, QC, MP for Southport (Conservative). Sir: "Informed sources" have been chattering away for weeks about a supposed decline in Conservative popularity and their explanations of this presumed event. Have they perhaps spent more time listening to one another than looking at the facts?

A Gallup Poll last week showed no change in the Conservative share of the poll between January and February, and the MORI poll published in *The Sunday Times* today (February 16) confirmed this and showed a remarkable consistency.

In the last MORI poll before Mr Heseltine resigned the Conservative share was 33 per cent; one taken in between the resignations of Mr Heseltine and Mr Brittan gave our share as 33 per cent, and the latest one, completed on February 12, gave us the same 33 per cent.

Surely it must now be clear to all that the public are more interested in good government than in Westland. And all credit to them for that, for withstanding the barrage to which they have been subjected, and for showing that the suggestion of a precipitous fall in the popularity of the Government or of the Prime Minister is something in the minds of the commentators and the wishful thinking of her enemies, not fact.

The remarkable fact is how steady support for both has remained despite all recent onslaughts.

Yours etc., IAN PERCIVAL, House of Commons, February 16.

Green belt pressures

From Mr Arnold Whittick. Sir: There is one simple solution to the problems of the pressure of population at Crawley and the shortage of houses mentioned by William Greaves in his article on "The green and pleasant boom town" (February 7). The solution is, build another new town in the region. That mentioned by Sir Peter Hordern, although in the right direction, does not go far enough.

Another new town with a maximum population of about 50,000, either at Billingshurst or Pulborough, both served by British Rail, is, in my view, the solution. There may be opposition among the residents of these towns, but then there is always opposition among some residents to such proposals.

The opportunity to do this was missed when the Government was considering the expansion of Crawley in 1966 in response to representations of industry. I asked Lord Greenwood, who was then Minister of Housing and Local Government, why the ministry did not designate another new town in the region and he replied that it was less costly to expand Crawley than to build another new town.

The result was the addition to Crawley of two more large neighbourhoods, Broadfield and Bewbush, both of which spread across the originally planned green belt. This was contrary to the original concept, which was to limit the size of the town in the interests of its inhabitants and, when nearing completion, to designate another town in the region. It is not too late to do this.

Yours faithfully, ARNOLD WHITTICK, 4 Nerthwood, Gosport Green, Crawley, West Sussex, February 12.

'Positive' scoring

From Mr A. J. D. Ferguson. Sir: The evidence of the rugby internationals played so far this season underlines the need to review the scoring system. In Saturday's Scotland/Wales match, for example, Scotland scored three tries to one yet lost because of the five penalty goals scored by Wales - admittedly superbly kicked.

In effect the efforts of 28 players on the field could be discarded for ten-minute "kick-out" between the two full-backs.

I would suggest that one way of restoring the importance of "positive" scoring through tries and dropped goals would be to introduce a distinction between penalties for deliberate physical fouls and those for accidental or technical infringements.

The penalty for a deliberate physical foul would, as at present, allow for a direct goal attempt and attract three points, whereas an accidental or technical foul would result in an indirect free kick, with no direct kick at goal permitted. Yours faithfully,

A. J. D. FERGUSON, Mundy's Hill, Shere Road, Ewhurst, Surrey, February 5.

Meaningful terms

From Dr Janet Welch. Sir: "Egress" was once a crowd puller. In the 1840s Barnum's museum was so popular that people would not leave. He solved the problem by posting signs advertising a star attraction.

They read "to the Egress". Yours faithfully, JANET WELCH, 61 Narbonne Avenue, SW4, February 8.

Taking care of inner cities

From Mr Laurence Trackman. Sir: For the last two years I have been involved in establishing a small business centre in St Paul's, Bristol, specifically for the benefit of local young people. Our organisation, recognised by central Government as a local enterprise agency, has now virtually completed the development of the £300,000 business centre without any specific central Government support, relying instead on the two local authorities and the far-sightedness of the local private sector.

With a Manpower Services Commission community programme we have employed 25 local long-term unemployed young people to undertake most of the building work and have put just under £100,000 of earned income back into St Paul's.

My experience in working on this project has led me to realise that many inner-city young people are consumed with bitterness towards a system that has stripped them of self-esteem and hope, and for them the worst of that system is represented on a day-to-day basis by the police.

On Friday in St Paul's I conducted a business-counselling session with two young black women who hope to start a restaurant in the area. With the right support they are perfectly capable of succeeding. As we talked a rank of police vehicles formed outside my window. In the "serious incident" which followed (report, February 8) a police car was destroyed and two policemen

were hospitalised as a result of the attempted arrest of a car thief.

We must hope that with the announcement (report, February 7) of the inner-city task forces, the Home Office recognises the crucial part it plays in influencing the way inner-city young people regard the world around them. If police are seen as representing a system that has clearly failed, then they must also be seen to be involved in the regeneration of those inner-city economies.

My repeated requests to local police chiefs and to the Home Office for their constructive involvement in initiatives of socio-economic development such as ours have so far met with little interest, yet a policy, for example, of using their considerable purchasing power to support and develop up-and-coming inner-city small businesses could have far-reaching effects both economically and in terms of human relations.

It is clear that the situation in the inner cities has now reached a watershed. Policing methods in the inner city are also at a watershed. Law and order in Britain is something more sophisticated than simply a state of not burning police cars. Yours faithfully, LAURENCE TRACKMAN, Director and General Manager, The Coach House Small Business Centre, 2 Upper York Street, St Paul's, Bristol, Avon, February 10.

Clinical research

From the Director of the Clinical Research Centre. Sir: Sir Michael Stoker's committee on the Clinical Research Centre has made recommendations to the Medical Research Council (report, February 5) which are far-reaching, imaginative and in the best interests of clinical research in this country.

The proposals are that the Centre should be merged with the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and that basic science and clinical research should be brought together by moving the National Institute for Medical Research to the same site as warmly welcomed by the centre's staff.

When the centre was founded in 1970 the MRC deliberately chose to site it alongside a district general hospital, since they envisaged not only that the centre would fulfil a national role but also that the research workers would be brought into direct touch with the everyday problems of disease as manifest in the community.

The research workers and clinicians have had very considerable success in applying the scientific method to disorders such as schizophrenia, obesity, alcohol abuse, the biology of blood vessels, infectious diseases, diarrhoeal illnesses and to allergy and disorders as banal as the common cold, for the Common Cold Unit at Salisbury is an important outstation of the centre. It is not true to say that the beds

at Northwick Park Hospital designated for research have not been fully used. The reason why research workers have used these beds in caring for patients from the local community has been to ensure that our clinical research staff should be brought into direct contact with the everyday problems of medicine, so that they keep their investigative feet firmly on the ground.

The Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, on the other hand, has evolved an approach to medicine that is entirely different but totally complementary to that of the Clinical Research Centre at Northwick Park. It has built up a formidable reputation for work in highly specialised areas of medicine, for example open-heart surgery, transplantation, the treatment of leukaemia, and imaging techniques.

In bringing together the excellence of the Clinical Research Centre's work in studies of important problems in the community and the high technology approach of Hammersmith the council will be creating a national centre for clinical research which will be unrivalled in western Europe.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER BOOTH, Director, Clinical Research Centre, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, February 7.

Traitors in 1940

From Brigadier B. Chichester-Cooke. Sir: It would be sad if your report today (February 11) lent credence to the idea that Kent was traitor-ridden in 1940. If memory serves me right, Claude Lajard did not command Kent, but the 9th (London TA) Division which was quartered at that time in East Kent.

He was one of a small group of senior officers who were convinced that Germany had, over the years, built up in Britain a highly trained organization of traitors, saboteurs, and ill-disposed persons who, on the word, would shoot up the air defence personnel and disable their equipment, and immobilise and contain the ground defences, to allow the unopposed landing of fleets of tanks at Folkestone to romp up the A2 to London in two hours, instead of a wasteful frontal attack.

At the time I was commanding a fair slice of the AA defences in Biggin Hill sector with detachments all over Kent and I well remember Claude sending the late Brigadier Guy Portman to persuade me to join in the hunt for "these vermin".

It was my contrary view that at that moment every able-bodied person in Kent had embraced the newly formed Local Defence Volunteers and, with enormous zeal, armed with an armband and a 12-bore and whipped up by all this "traitor" talk, was making movement, especially at night, almost impossible.

I never discovered who it was that Claude wanted to look up, but I suspect it included some of the farmers and landowners who attacked him strongly because his troops entered their lands and buildings searching for illicit rendezvous or arms caches, trampling down crops and letting out livestock.

If there were any pro-enemy incidents, I cannot find anyone who has heard about them. In contrast, the sheep farmers of Kent and the Romney Marsh readily allowed millions of sheep to be removed to deny an invading force a meat supply. It broke their hearts and ruined their flocks as well as many of themselves. But they did it.

Yours faithfully, B. CHICHESTER-COKE, Hammond Place, Upnor, Rochester, Kent, February 11.

GCSE examination

From Mr Steven Bending. Sir: You have reported (February 7) that the new GCSE examination which will replace the CSE and O level systems is to go ahead despite the boycott by the two main teaching unions. I would suggest that the success or failure of the GCSE will have little to do with the teachers' dispute.

So far the training programme, at a cost of £8 million, has proceeded without most final draft syllabuses being made available because they have not yet been agreed upon. Furthermore, the proposed syllabuses for the colleges are not to be published until May, 1987, we are told.

For geography, as an example, the Midlands examining group is proposing to offer five different syllabuses, of which four are not available.

The question arises as to how teachers are supposed to train for syllabuses they have not yet seen and prepare the necessary materials and in many cases buy new textbooks. This process alone will take

more time than has been made available.

Grade-related criteria marking, which is a key component, is not to be introduced until 1990 and is highly questionable as to whether the GCSE will put less emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge. The system will still maintain three pass grades and no doubt pupils, parents and employers will not understand that grades D to G will be acceptable results.

It seems that Sir Keith Joseph's undue haste in pushing forward the GCSE will result in a certain amount of muddling through which is hardly conducive to improving educational standards, and the exam is becoming just another abbreviation to add to CSE, O levels, CPVE, B/TEC, VTS, to name but a few, that teachers, parents and employers are supposed to understand.

Yours faithfully, STEVEN BENDING, 5 Yarningdale, Harwood Grove, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, February 7.

RAPE LAW

It is not simply an impression from sensational headlines that the crime of rape is on the increase. It has also become more brutal. The incidence of rape began to rise in the early sixties after a long period in which it had increased comparatively little, and in the last few years that rise has steepened.

The sharp increase in reported rape cases in the past few years may have something to do with a greater willingness on the part of victims to report rape in the light of greater police sensitivity towards victims. But that does not alter the general picture of a crime that is increasing and that is also one that is "getting nastier" as Detective Chief Superintendent Thelma Wagstaffe of the Metropolitan Police put it recently. In a graphic address to the Howard League she described how rape is now frequently accompanied by acts of deliberate cruelty and defilement, arising from a determination to submit the victim to maximum humiliation.

The public is becoming increasingly anxious both that such crimes should carry their due penalty and that nothing should stand in the way of the detection and apprehension of rapists by the police. After a number of especially horrific cases recently, Home Office Ministers now contemplate abolishing the rule of anonymity which prohibits the public identification of men accused of rape until, and unless, they are found guilty. This was added to the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act of 1976, which provides for the anonymity of rape victims, while the Bill was before Parliament, and has undoubtedly led to absurd

anomalies and inequitable situations. Thus a man accused, say, of rape, and also of sexually assaulting a child in other ways, and who is acquitted of rape but found guilty of the second charge, remains protected by the anonymity rule. He cannot be named in newspapers for the crime of which he is guilty. The same would also apply where a man acquitted of rape was found guilty of other, non-sexual, serious offences.

This kind of absurdity has been criticized by the Criminal Law Revision Committee, and was also described as "extraordinary" by Mr David Mellor, the Home Office Parliamentary Secretary, when he spoke in a Commons debate on rape in November. What is more, if the concern is to protect the reputation of a man accused of rape who is eventually found not guilty, the same argument could be used in respect of other hardly less heinous crimes of violence in respect of which the accused has to face the full glare of publicity before a verdict is reached. The only case in logic for the rule has been that of anonymity for the victim (who is also the accuser) should be matched with anonymity for the man charged, not least because a number of rape cases arise from encounters between people known to each other, in which the facts may be highly doubtful.

The dominant case for a change in the rule, however, does not hang on the unfairness with which particular accused persons are dealt with in terms of publicity. It rests on the growing belief that, as a result of the anonymity rule, the police do, on occasions, feel inhibited in their search for and apprehension of suspected rapists. In a recent case,

the Wiltshire police felt constrained from publishing the photograph of a suspect rapist, or from naming him, during the search because he was already suspected of another earlier rape. In fact, since no charge had been preferred with regard to the first crime, it appears that the the police would, according to the letter of the law have been entitled to publish the photograph of the wanted man, and give his name, in connection with the second. But it is also a question of the spirit of the law.

In searching for any suspected criminal, the police have to be careful not to prejudice trial by publishing photographs and giving names. They only resort to both when the public interest warrants it, which means when all other methods have failed or when there is a danger to the public. In theory, they are as free to pursue this course with rapists as with other criminals, however strange it may seem that a suspected rapist can be named (usually as wanted for questioning about a "serious offence") while the search is on but cannot be named in the court. The fact remains that they are often confused by the anonymity rule, and fear to take any step which may be said later to have prejudiced a fair trial. Their fear is evidenced by cases in which they feel able to say that a suspect is wanted for a murder, suppressing the fact that he is also wanted for rape. It is no doubt true that the removal of the anonymity rule would lead to some hard cases. But the general truth that hard cases tend to make for bad law clearly seems to operate in regard to the anonymity rule for suspected rapists. The Home Office ministers are right to have begun the process of changing it.

MR OZAL AND THE CYPRUS TEST

Turkey's prime minister Mr Turgut Ozal will call on Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street today less than two weeks before United Nations officials are due to start the next round of exploratory low-level talks on Cyprus. It is to be hoped that Mrs Thatcher will use the opportunity to impress upon her visitor the need for rapid progress on this issue.

It is now more than a year since the meeting between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, with the UN Secretary-General Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar acting as referee, broke up in New York in disarray. It is ten months since the Secretary-General completed his revised set of proposals - designed to get the show back on the road. Elections in both parts of Cyprus last year inevitably held up the resumption. But now the UN is trying to get things moving once more and Britain is well placed to put a shoulder behind the wheel.

So too is Mr Ozal. However one apportion responsibility for the breakdown of the January 1985 meeting, it was Mr Rauf Denktas the leader of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) who walked out - and it is Mr Denktas who is now likely to prove the more difficult to

please. Time after all is on his side - as he consolidates his position in the North of that divided island. He can afford to sit back and thumb his nose at his opposite number President Spyros Kyprianou on the other side of the thin blue line in Nicosia - or to prevaricate when approached by an anxious Perez de Cuellar. The one person he cannot afford to treat too lightly is Mr Ozal.

The TRNC depends on Ankara for around 60 per cent of its annual budget. More than 20,000 Turkish troops remain on the island, and their continuing presence is one of the central issues which stand in the way of a Cyprus solution. Economically, militarily and politically too, Mr Denktas must always look to Ankara for support. It follows that Mr Ozal is well placed to apply the pressure which might be needed before a settlement over Cyprus can be reached.

Will he agree to do so? He will almost certainly not agree to help buy peace on Cyprus at any price. But Turkey as a member of Nato and a would-be partner in the European Community must perceive the inherent instability in a divided Cyprus.

Turkey has already fallen foul of the Community over

human rights. In recognition of its progress on this issue the EEC has unlocked over £17m worth of aid to Ankara and a much bigger package is now to be negotiated. Turkey recognises that any application by her to join the Community at this stage would almost certainly be rebuffed. But member countries are committed in principle to opening the door one day.

There are two ways in which Mr Ozal could put pressure on Mr Denktas and his colleagues. One would be in persuading the Turks at least to drop the forceful rhetoric which flows from time to time from the TRNC and which hardly encourages the right kind of climate for progress. The second involves persuading them to be more positive in negotiations. The next compromise worked out by Perez de Cuellar and his staff will be the subject of the low-level talks (which means Mr Denktas himself will not be there) in Geneva, next week.

By pointing out all this to her guest Mrs Thatcher will not be taking sides. Sir Geoffrey Howe as Foreign Secretary is due to visit Athens next month and it is to be hoped that he will not lose the opportunity there either.

MURMURINGS IN THE HIMALAYAS

Eight months ago a series of bombs in Kathmandu exposed the political strains lying underneath the surface of Nepal's Shangri-La image. More recently the Liberal MP Mr David Alton described in The Times the persecution of at least some Christians - in a country hitherto renowned for religious tolerance.

Yesterday, twenty-five years after her last state visit to Nepal, the Queen began a return trip to that country at a time which the Nepalese might think of as unfortunate.

It would indeed seem to be incontrovertible that things are not quite what they used to be for this Himalayan kingdom with its Old Etonian monarch. If the terrorist bombs last June were the work, as it was claimed, of left-wing extremists dedicated to the overthrow of King Birendra and his line, the plot was a failure. It would seem to have consolidated support for the 40-year-old ruler - spiritual as well as temporal leader of the Hindu majority in Nepal. But the civil disobedience, which preceded the bombings, reflected the discontent of middle classes with the political status

quo and in the long run may turn out to be more important than the head-line grabbing acts of terrorism.

In 1960 the then monarch dissolved the country's parliament and replaced it with a body called the "panchayat" - a non-party assembly. The reason was said to be the undue influence exerted on Nepal's parties from outside influences, particularly in India. But the system has been under increasing criticism as an instrument for perpetuating the power of the king - despite a referendum six years ago which would seem to have endorsed it. Last year's civil disobedience reflected more recent unhappiness.

One request the Nepalese will make of Sir Geoffrey Howe who, as Foreign Secretary is travelling with the Queen, is for reassurances over the future of the Gurkhas whose five battalions in the British army face an uncertain future when Hong Kong (where three of them are based) is handed over to China in 1997. The Nepalese do not like to talk too much about the Gurkhas whose mercenary status is something of an embarrassment. But the

money they bring back to help feed the country's starved exchequer, is something they would find it hard to do without.

Religious intolerance is harder to identify than the country's economic problems. Officially the Hindu and Buddhist people of Nepal live together without any strife. So too, officially, do the country's 35,000 Christian minority. But religious conversion is banned - with up to six years in jail for transgressors. While this might not cause difficulties in the relatively sophisticated environment of the capital itself, Hindu fundamentalists have used the law to act against Christian wrongdoers with excessive zeal in some of the more outlying areas - notably in the East. The authorities have been accused of turning a blind eye to this. The Queen and Sir Geoffrey will see none of it either.

But the two countries share a long history of relations and, while the glitter of a state visit to a friendly country should not be dimmed, the hosts should also not be left unaware of Britain's concern for Nepal's communities of Christians.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 17: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips... Her Royal Highness later attended the Brown/Guide Tea Challenge Party at the Savoy Hotel, London, where the Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips...

was received by the Principal Officer (Mrs Victoria Taylor). Her Royal Highness later attended the Brown/Guide Tea Challenge Party at the Savoy Hotel, London, where the Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips...

Royal Air Force, for the United States of America. His Royal Highness was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Ponsomby, Bt), His Excellency the United States Ambassador (the Hon Charles Price, II) and the Station Commander (Group Captain Peter Bear, RAF).

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 17: The Prince of Wales left Royal Air Force Brize Norton this morning in VC10 aircraft of No 10 Squadron...

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Lajos Lederer will be held today in the Press Club, Shoe Lane, EC4, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. Bentinck-Budd and Miss C. Cohen. The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edward C. Bentinck-Budd, of Esher, Surrey, and Omer-I, eldest daughter of the late Mrs A.A. Stanger and Mrs S. Cohen, of Hampstead, London.

Mr G. Devereux and Miss S.P. Skimmer. The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs E. Devereux, of Wimborne, Dorset, and Susan Fiona, eldest daughter of the late Mrs A.A. Stanger and Mrs C.F. Skinner, of Jersey, Channel Islands.

Mr J.A. Lofis and Miss H. Nowak. The engagement is announced between Tony, son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Lofis, of Thornley, Bishop's Cleeve, and Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs S.K. Nowak, of Pinner, Middlesex.



Museum buys earliest City map copperplate

The Museum of London has acquired the earliest (1607) surviving engraved copperplate for a map of the City of London (detail below) with the help of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The northern end of London Bridge is shown at the bottom right edge of our photograph. On the reverse is an oil painting, held by Mrs Rosemary Weinstein, keeper of the museum's Tudor and Stuart department, of the Coronation of the Virgin, attributed to the circle of Frans Francken (c1620).



University news

Aberdeen Dr Ian Hyslop Munro, of the Science and Engineering Research Council laboratory at Daresbury, has been appointed an honorary professor in the department of natural philosophy (physics).

honorary degrees on Sultan Azlan Shah, Sultan of Perak and Deputy King of Malaysia, Professor Stuart Kind, forensic scientist, and Sir David Wilson, director of the British Museum.

Appointments

Professor Wilfred Saunders, Professor Terence Ramey and Dr Henry Rosemary to be members of the Advisory Council on Public Records.

The following to be deputy secretaries for the Royal County of Berkshire.

Mr Keith Alexander, head of music and arts, for BBC Scotland, and Mr Ian Halliwell, chairman of Platform Music Societies, to be members of the Scottish Arts Council for three years.

Mr C.W. France, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, to be second permanent secretary in the department from April 30, in succession to Sir Geoffrey Otton, who is retiring.

Birthdays today Mr H.L. Beales, 97; Major Sir Harold Bibby, 97; Miss Phyllis Calvert, 71; Miss Jean E. Cooke, 59; Miss Sinead, Cusack, 38; Lord Darwen, 71; Mr Len Deighton, 57; Lieutenant-General Sir Donald Dunstan, 63; Professor E.G. Edwards, 72; Sir Charles Frossard, 64; Sir Eric Gairy, 64; Mr Graeme Garden, 43; Mrs Phyllis George, 61; Dr J.C. Houston, 69; Sir Peter Lawrence, 63; Sir Basil McFarland, 88; Professor William McKean, 65; Sir Arthur Norman, 69; Mr Ned Sherrin, 57; Viscount Waverley, 75; Sir Max Williams, 60.

Giggleswick School

The first Douglas Glover memorial lecture at Giggleswick School will be given by Mr Peter Walker, MP, Secretary of State for Energy, on Wednesday, February 26, at 7pm. The title of the lecture is "The Future of Energy".

Luncheon

English-Speaking Union Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, was the guest speaker at the English-Speaking Union literary luncheon yesterday at Dartmouth House.

Fulbright Commission

The Fulbright Commission, the bi-national United States-United Kingdom Educational Commission, has announced the following new commission members.

Army commissions

The following have been granted short-service limited commissions in the regiments, corps, regiments, and regiments, having successfully completed course No 17 at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

OBITUARY

MR RAINSFORD MOWLEM

Leading wartime plastic surgeon

Mr Rainsford Mowlem, FRCS, for many years one of Britain's leading plastic surgeons, died at his home in Southern Spain on February 6. He was 83.

Mowlem was in that line of eminent plastic surgeons from New Zealand - which included Sir Harold Gillies, and his pupil, Sir Archibald McIndoe - who made such a fundamental contribution to the treatment of war wounds.

Born on December 12, 1902, he was educated at Auckland Grammar School and the University of New Zealand. He qualified MB, ChB before coming to England for training in surgery.

In London he came under the influence of Sir Harold Gillies, and in 1939 he joined the services with the orthopaedic staff in the treatment of patients with war wounds, at Hill End, St Albans.

MAJOR SIR WILLIAM PENNINGTON-RAMSDEN Educated at Eton and Cambridge; he joined the Life Guards, and fought in Burma in the Second World War. He was Master of the Grafton Hounds from 1955-60, and served as High Sheriff of Cumberland 1962-3.

MR CALVIN HOFFMAN

Mr Calvin Hoffman, who has died at his home in Sarasota, Florida, at the age of 80, was a tireless proponent of the fanciful but highly entertaining theory that the works of Shakespeare were in fact written by Marlowe.

In his book The Man Who Was Shakespeare, which was published in 1955, he argued that Marlowe's murder had been simulated, an unknown sailor having been killed in his place, while the playwright, whom the Privy Council wanted to question about some seditious pamphlets, jumped bail and made good his escape to Italy.

Lazare Kaplan, who died on February 12 at the age of 102, was the founder of the New York diamond firm bearing his name, and the man who cut the 726-carat Jonker diamond.

MR EMANOEL LEE Mr Emanuel Lee, FRCS, Chairman of the Oxford Regional Medical Advisory Committee, died on January 23, aged 52. He made valuable contributions to his profession as surgeon, research worker and teacher; he also had several outside interests.

Church news The Dean of Winchester, the Very Rev Michael Stanfield, is to retire on October 1. He has been dean since 1969.

Science report Value of the money spider

Scientists are considering way of utilising the money spider as a check on the aphid, which is a major pest in cereals and other crops. Money spiders (Linyphiidae) already have a remarkable ability to kill aphids by striking themselves into fields on anti-cyclical summer and autumn days in a phenomenon known as 'ballooning'.

CHRISTIE'S WEEK IN VIEW

A selection from our 19 sales in London this week. Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Snuff-Bottles: Wednesday 19 February at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street: An attractive sale comprising a variety of decorative wares from late Archaic to the Qing Dynasty.

Latest wills

England opening bowler, left estate valued at £70,522 net. Sir Herbert John Todd, of Blairgowrie, prime minister and vice-president, Jaipur Council of State, 1939, left £376,481 net.

NATIONAL THEATRE advertisement featuring a portrait of a man in a suit and tie.

THE ARTS

Television
Memory matters

Horizon (BBC2) was devoted to an examination of scientific "truth", by substantially scientific methods. The aim was to demonstrate that science is not so much a matter of discovering absolute truths about our universe as of placing the results of experiments in the context of the conventional wisdom of our time.

The producer, Hilary Lawson, began by demonstrating that human visual perception is a process of relating the data transmitted by the optic nerve to existing concepts in our memory. The final proof of this theory was a retired company director who had suffered brain damage during a routine hospital operation. His sight was perfect; the mental faculty which he lacked was the store of concepts with which to make sense of what he saw. As a result he could get lost within 10 yards of his home, and could make no sense at all of a picture of a Christmas tree.

Leaving this noble victim behind, the programme then went on to look at the circumstances surrounding two classic scientific discoveries. Galileo's proof of the rotation of the earth was swiftly demonstrated to have been meaningless to his contemporaries, who simply chose to believe information which accorded with their own consensus of opinion.

Einstein's theory of relativity was also named as an idea which appealed to the spirit of its age, and which was adopted in the face of conflicting evidence. We then passed some time with two teams of scientists who were hunting the quark, with varying degrees of success and increasing mutual distrust. Scientific experiment, it was suggested, could often be simply a way of rigging the evidence.

These were enthralling arguments which could generate a stimulating sixth-form debate and tax more mature intellects with their implications. Their presentation, however, was so prosaic that the programme would have wiped the floor with Marcel Marceau at that hypothetical contest devised by The Goodies. The Monty Python Festival of Boring, instead of demanding "whither knowledge?" or "whither society?", view it would be unfairly tempted to wish it would all just wander away.

Celia Brayfield

Galleries
English simplicity born of diversity

Julian Trevelyan
Watermans Art Centre,
Brentford

Reg Gammon
New Grafton Gallery

Joseph Wright of
Derby: Mr and Mrs
Coltman
National Gallery

Prints and Drawings:
Five Years of
Collecting
British Museum

February is the cruellest month for artists. Short and dark, it effectively glooms over their month-long gallery shows last in practice a bare three weeks, and the work that is on show seldom if ever gets seen by natural light. As against that, the prevailing gloom does tend to favour bright, colourful art, and there is already a faint feeling, after the psychological hiatus of the Christmas/New Year holidays, that something is again beginning to stir. Thus, while Julian Trevelyan could quite possibly have asked for a better time to have his first retrospective, at the Watermans Art Centre, Brentford, until the end of the week (after which it tours), he could certainly have had a worse one for the advantageous display of his particular gifts.

The first impression of Trevelyan, based on his most recent work, is that he is a rather cosy, easy-to-take, parochial artist, painting away, mostly around west London, at his dazzlingly simple, sophisticated-primitive landscapes. The big thing this retrospective demonstrates is that the apparent simplicity has not come easily. Nor has the very local, English quality arrived through ignorance or lack of interest in what has been going on artistically elsewhere in the world.

Indeed, he began wearing his cosmopolitanism on his sleeve; the abstracts of the Thirties proclaim him Klee's most enthusiastic English disciple, with their knowing scribbles of circles and stars and triangles, as though speaking to us in pictograms we can almost but not quite understand. With the onset of the Forties he did not, like others of his generation (he was born in 1910) turn his back completely on modernism, though he was inevitably influenced by the Neo-Romantic melancholy of the Zeitgeist: the anguish of paintings like *Premontions of the Blitz* is sufficed

by an acute awareness of German Expressionism, of Continental Surrealist practice, and probably of the Picasso of *Guernica*.

So many and diverse influences might well produce stylistic chaos, and it is not easy to explain why they do not — or not quite. Perhaps the key work here is *Seagull* (1945), which amazingly combines delight in the English landscape with a surrealist eye for bizarre detail, present in Neo-Romantic profusion, and the sheer hard thinking required to keep such a composition from falling to pieces before our eyes. Trevelyan is clearly an intensely intelligent artist; his questing mind may take him off in what ought to be a confusing number of different directions, but it also provides him with the confidence to assume that whatever style he decides to try is bound to relate to some unseen hub in his work — the same person is, after all, always there wielding the brush. Maybe he is not a major artist of his generation, but, engagingly, he does not claim to be. Unmistakably he just enjoys being an artist, exploring the manifold possibilities of paint, and a naturally sunny disposition illuminates all.

Reg Gammon has had to wait a lot longer, not for a retrospective but just for a one-man London show. Still, now he has made it, at the age of 92, with a really exciting introduction (until the end of the week) at the New Grafton Gallery, late of Bond Street, now of Church Road, Barnes. He is not entirely an unknown quantity: he has been a professional artist since he was apprenticed to the black-and-white illustrator Frank Patterson in 1911, and has exhibited widely in Wales and the West; by a curious coincidence he was brought to the attention of his London gallery by Julian Trevelyan's painter wife Mary Fedden.

For all his beginning in black-and-white, Gammon is a very painterly painter, as well as a prolific one: all the oils and watercolours in this show have been painted in his nineties. With few exceptions they are landscapes, usually with figures and sometimes dominated by figures. The watercolours are proficient but somewhat ordinary. Not so the oils, which have an extraordinary and not entirely explicable smouldering intensity. His firming or crofting scenes in the west of Ireland, Normandy or Brittany are transmuted by a breathtaking intensity of colour, with a particular delight in burning reds and acid greens which have not been applied to such subjects with such enthusiasm since Gauguin and Die Brücke.

It is perhaps late to make our first acquaintance with such a distinctive talent but, if the sheer energy with which he tackles the canvas is anything to go by, we should have plenty of time for more detailed



Quintessentially English, but attractive across the Channel nevertheless: Joseph Wright of Derby's *Mr and Mrs Coltman* at the National Gallery

knowledge. To any suggestion that this show might be merely a flash in the pan, one can with confidence counter that it will be really fascinating to see what he is painting in twenty years.

The current crop of new museum shows brings a number of unexpected and in the main unprejudiced delights. At the National Gallery the latest "Acquisition in Focus" show (until April 27) concentrates on Joseph Wright of Derby's *Mr and Mrs Coltman*, a quintessentially English composition of two figures, she on horseback, he standing beside her, in a landscape with a vaguely indicated country house, modest rather than stately, in the background. It is not the sort of painting Wright is best remembered for, though it seems likely that the same couple, friends of the painter, also figured in one of those *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump*, which is at present in the Tate Gallery but will return to the National (to which it was originally bequeathed) this autumn.

That, of course, is one of Wright's virtuoso plays with dramatic illumination in a darkened room. *Mr and Mrs Coltman*, acquired in 1984, is in much the same tradition as Gainsborough's *Mr and Mrs Andrews*, and stirs British sensibilities in the same sort of way. But not British alone, it would appear: I am told that recent enquiries as to what the French

would like in Paris to follow the Gainsborough. Turner and Reynolds exhibitions received the unanimous and enthusiastic answer — Joseph Wright of Derby.

Meanwhile the British Museum's Department of Prints and Drawings has, as is its wont, produced with its utmost nonchalance a staggering cull from its acquisitions of the last five years (on show until May 4), headed in public fame no doubt by the Palmer watercolour *A Cornfield by Moonlight with the Evening Star* — just the sort of thing, surely, that concerns for the National Heritage can legitimately be about, and well worth all the concern and money lavished on its retention for the nation. But there are also wonderful Pre-Raphaelite drawings, a complete sketchbook by the recently rediscovered 18th-century Welsh landscapist Thomas Jones, one of the earliest known monotypes (by Castiglione) and some superb 20th-century German drawings and prints, ranging from Paula Modersohn-Becker to Anselm Kiefer.

It is also notable that a handful of the more remarkable exhibits — the Castiglione monotype, a Rembrandt drawing — come from the Chatsworth sale: a salutary reminder that, whatever opportunities the national collections may be able to grasp, like the Palmer, there are still all too many chances which are just beyond their resources and have to be let slip.

John Russell Taylor

Theatre
Sisterhood at last finds its Orton

The Rug of Identity
Oval House

Theatre should ever be thus: the first night delayed for 20 minutes to allow a crucial prop (a lavatory pedestal) to be mended; an exotic audience putting their feet through disconcerting gaps in the tiered flooring; a programme which invites the reader to describe a sex-change operation in three words or less; a junk stage-set with loopy sightlines; all this, and one of the most sublimely ludicrous plays I have ever sat still for.

Bill W. Fleming's preposterous lesbian romp concerns a problematical cat's-crade of a set-up between two young women and their outrageous mothers. These columns are not the place to spell out the finer wrinkles of Miss Fleming's plot, nor to retail her funnier one-liners; suffice it to say that she has written a brilliant entertainment for some of the family.

Joanna, an earnestly harrowed writer of paperback nasties, visits her smart, soignée mother in the condemned cell (where, naturally, she has been conducting an affair with the warden), only to be told the awful truth of her parentage: "Your father was a lavatory seat". Joanna suffers a further shock when her mother reveals that she

homicide for which she is about to swing was merely the last in a considerable series which, in the guise of recycled bedtime stories, provided her daughter with the plots of her books.

We now move to a ractety flat shared by Laurie, a dress designer, and her tailor's dummy. Enter her walking nightmare of a mother, Mrs Proctor, a tubby bottle-blond in a man's suit who has been thrown out by her son (she arranged for his fiancée to be murdered) and now plans to impose on Laurie. Arriving in distress after being mugged, Joanna vomits into Mrs Proctor's hat: the latter attempts to throttle the dummy before swanking out on the town.

All this is achieved with gloriously filthy dead-pan jokes with innocent-sounding snippets of "normal" conversation. Parts of the script urgently need tidying up, which may become more obvious when Jude Alderson's production gets into its stride, but it already sizzles with wit and panache.

The Hard Corps company are Heather Gilmore, Debby Klein, Sarah McNeil, Cathy Kilooyne and Karen Parker. A few weeks ago I roundly declared that the sisterhood were "still waiting for their own Joe Orton to materialize". I was not then aware of Bill W. Fleming.

Martin Cropper

Goat
Croydon Warehouse

The most deleterious aspect of life in the shadow of the Bomb is not the angst supposedly attendant on the threat of global annihilation but the poverty of comment to which this predicament gives rise. It is almost as if the fictional treatment of the theme held some special magnetic allure for our duller playwrights. This effort by Louise Page with which Paines Plough (The Writers' Company) has been touring is prolix, misconceived, confused and confusing.

We find ourselves in a biochemistry laboratory in a high-security installation where Alice, a research scientist specializing in the decay of the alimentary canal after irradiation, has been summoned to conduct a controlled experiment over the course of a weekend. The ostensible subject of her inquiry (*copra hircus*, the ruminant quadruped of the title) is tethered, conceptually in the audience, enabling Alice to address her 80-minute monologue to us as if we ourselves were dumb scalpel-fodder.

This improbable set-up is rendered well-nigh incredible by the author's failure to characterize her single protagonist. Raised on a council estate, the daughter of a butcher (nudge-nudge), Alice

has a niece named Tracey and calls the lavatory "the toilet" — accurate enough as far as it goes, but she is also given to quoting William Blake and frequently descends (or perhaps rises) to pamphletise in her sporadic attempts to see the world in a grain of cliché.

The script's un-tuned cadences are untempered by a form of imaginative tunnel-vision which reaches its nadir when the idealistic researcher, recalling her ambition to discover a cure for radiation sickness, describes a nuclear-winter dream in which she addresses an audience of corpses: "Because they weren't all skulls, they couldn't even smile". Unhappy skulls, incapable even of rictus.

One presumes that Miss Page's purpose in writing this pamphlet jumble was to stimulate debate on "the issues", to raise questions. Well, here are some questions. What are the external forces that keep Alice penned to her laboratory for the course of the weekend which (apparently) witnesses a nuclear explosion? What prevents her communicating with the outside world? Is her attendance for this experiment to be seen (God forbid) as a metaphor for women's subservience?

And, lastly, what are Carole Harrison, a perfectly competent actress, and Pip Broughton, one of our more capable directors, doing here?

M.C.

Concerts
Right to the Russian heart

LSO/
Rozhdstvensky
Barbican

With the cantata *Alexander Nevsky*, Gennadi Rozhdstvensky reached the Russian heart of his four-concert series with the London Symphony Orchestra. A compatriot like Yevgeny Svetlanov may well, judging from his last memorable London performance, have transported his audience back to the Moscow Studios where Prokofiev first worked on his film score with Eisenstein: setting the score's black against its white, emphasizing its savage cross-cutting of rhythmic blocks and the merging of its instrumental montage. Rozhdstvensky chose to do otherwise.

This performance glorified in Prokofiev's rearrangement and accommodation of the score for the concert hall. Taking full account of the even broader spread of sound created by the orchestra's necessarily wide, shallow positioning on the Barbican platform, the conductor chose leisurely tempi and sturdy rather than incisive massing of his forces in the big choral numbers (valiantly sung by the London Symphony Chorus). He concentrated, too, on the spread of resonance from horn and trombone rather than the searing collisions with which Prokofiev had staged-managed his ice battle. It made for a thrilling rather

than a chilling performance, apart, that is, from Alfreda Hodgson's tenderly phrased solo in "The Field of the Dead".

The first half of the evening was dominated, literally, by Viktoria Posnikova's hugely grandiloquent performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. In its ponderous, striding chords and octaves and its lurching, heavily languid rubato, it was very much the pianistic equivalent of the grand, operatic style of a Dimitrova or an Arkhipova. But tating a more effete western ear to its scale was not the whole story, nor the entire solution.

For, as the slow movement so telling revealed, it was the narcissism of the performance, its obsession with an entirely solo-orientated acoustic fantasy, which weakened its superficial strength. By forcing the orchestra to match its inflated proportions, it was a performance which accused the work itself of self-indulgence.

Hilary Finch

ECO/Barenboim
Festival Hall

With the English Chamber Orchestra, in the early 1960s, Daniel Barenboim not only laid the foundations of his own dazzling dual career but in the process pioneered the (now well subscribed) occupa-

tion of "conductor/pianist". Twenty years on, the partnership between orchestra and pianist is still rather special, as these performances of Beethoven's First and Second Concertos demonstrated.

The key to their long-lasting concord must lie in the ECO's fine-tuned response to Barenboim's varied, ever-probing musicianship. His majestic fluency in the allegros of both concertos, and his perfect judgement of the weight that each passing *sforzando* of No. 2's finale needs in its context, all attest to his undimmed virtuosity. The preservation of this technical quality is all the more remarkable because Barenboim now surely has little time in his crowded schedule for the daily digital drudgery which many concert pianists consider a necessary chore.

More extraordinary still is his instinct for coaxing half-hidden meanings from the music. The spiky thrust of his passage-work was, time and again, offset by subdued, even slightly sad, touches a marked slowing-down in No. 2's first movement so that the mystery of the remote D flat and G flat excursions could be savoured, for instance. His cadenzas were complex kaleidoscopes of fleeting moods, but perhaps the afternoon's most magical moment was its simplest: the ending of No. 2's slow movement where the poignancy of Barenboim's phrasing (and his exactly measured pedalling) in the unaccompanied right-



Daniel Barenboim: special relationship with the ECO

hand "recitative" created a perceptible tension throughout the packed hall.

The orchestra, alert and sympathetic but understandingly taking a supporting role in the concertos, had earlier offered a spacious account of Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony, No. 35. Rather than beating time conventionally Barenboim conducted the whole work by indicating the stress-points and required shading of phrases: a sophisticated approach which indirectly complemented the ECO's unshakable rapport, but which did produce the occasional dynamic extravagance.

Richard Morrison

BBCSO/
Pritchard
Barbican

It is difficult for a performance of Mahler's Second Symphony to fail; surely nothing could that ends with such a positive, uplifting affirmation. Nevertheless it takes something special to help it transcend its vast proportions. Sir John Pritchard, directing the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the London Philharmonic Choir, managed it on Sunday, however, and those who wish to confirm or deny that view can listen to his results tonight on Radio 3.

The secret of Sir John's performance lay in his pacing, most crucially perhaps in the stormy funeral march of the first movement. It did not matter that here the players were not always unanimous in those rushing C minor flurries, nor even that the tempo sometimes erred marginally on the careful side, for the argument remained intense throughout, and death was absolute.

Nash Ensemble
Wigmore Hall

Each time I hear Webern's arrangement for the *Pierrot Lunaire* ensemble of flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano of Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony, Op. 9, I become more convinced that the result is an improvement even upon the marvellous original. The reason lies not simply in the greater clarity offered by the reduced forces, nor in the urgency given to the score through the increased demand upon each player, but simply through the presence of the piano. For, where Schoenberg's 10 wind and five string instruments tend to fuse the music's complexities into a rather luscious whole, the piano's percussiveness lends bite as well as transparency to the rest of the ensemble's contributions also emerge with greater force.

Such, anyway, was the impression given by the Nash Ensemble's magnificent reading in the latest concert of their "Austro-German Romantic" series. If Webern's version does have a fault, it is that the work can sound messy simply through being so technically demanding. Yet there was never the slightest suspicion here that each performer had done anything less than wholly master his or her part.

second movement, Sir John's pristine control of rhythm and speed was such that the pizzicato repeat of the first section came close to being a parody of itself. If that was the intention, it would have to be counted a mistake, for there is nothing about the atmosphere there or in the Scherzo to make anyone believe that Mahler was being other than perfectly straightforward, despite the burlesques and the screaming E flat clarinets in the latter movement. How else to approach the agonizing spiritual purity of the succeeding "Urlicht"? There Felicity Palmer and the trumpets and horns were in firm emotional and technical control.

And then came that wondrous finale, in which Miss Palmer, Felicity Lott and the two splendid choirs really did transport us to other worlds, aided by orchestral playing of impressive warmth and nobility. The brass section never faltered; the woodwind and strings were nearly as perfect; and Sir John was masterful in his expansive treatment of this glorious music.

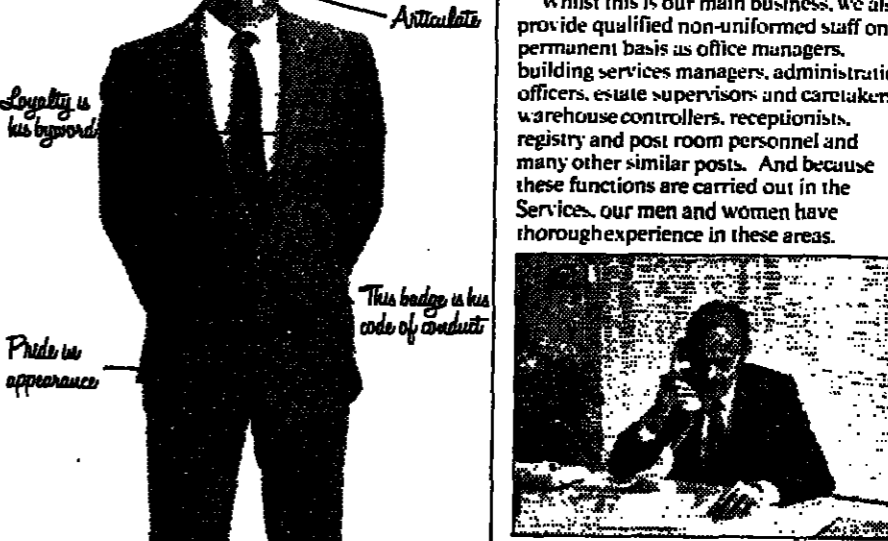
Stephen Pettitt

But the climax of the concert — which began with Henze's rather slight Violin Sonata — was undoubtedly a mellow account of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet. Though it seems invidious to single out players in a piece that requires so much of each contributor, it has to be said that Michael Collins's immaculately controlled, impeccably shaped and sensitively coloured clarinet playing was something only to be marvelled at.

S.P.

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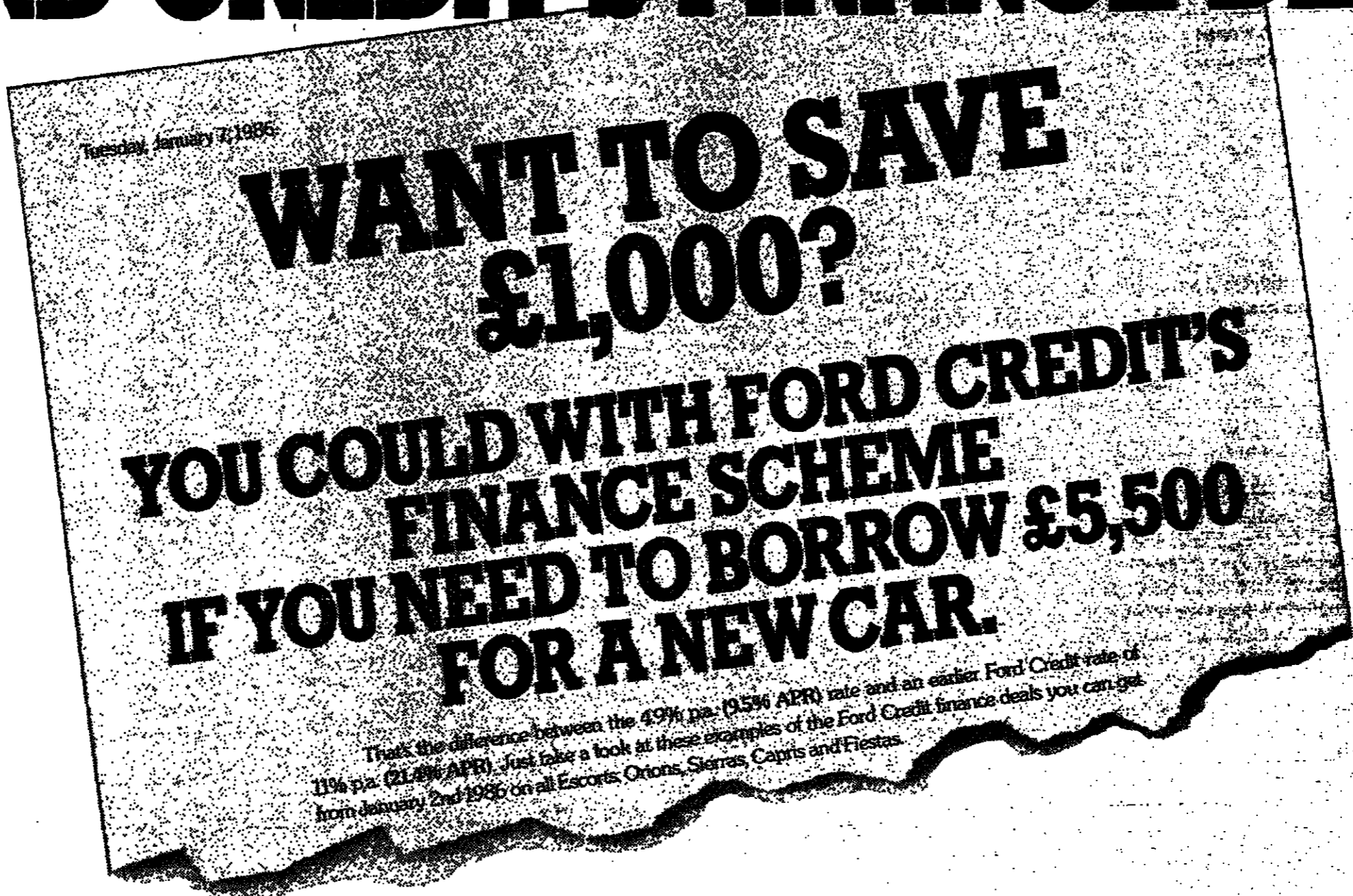
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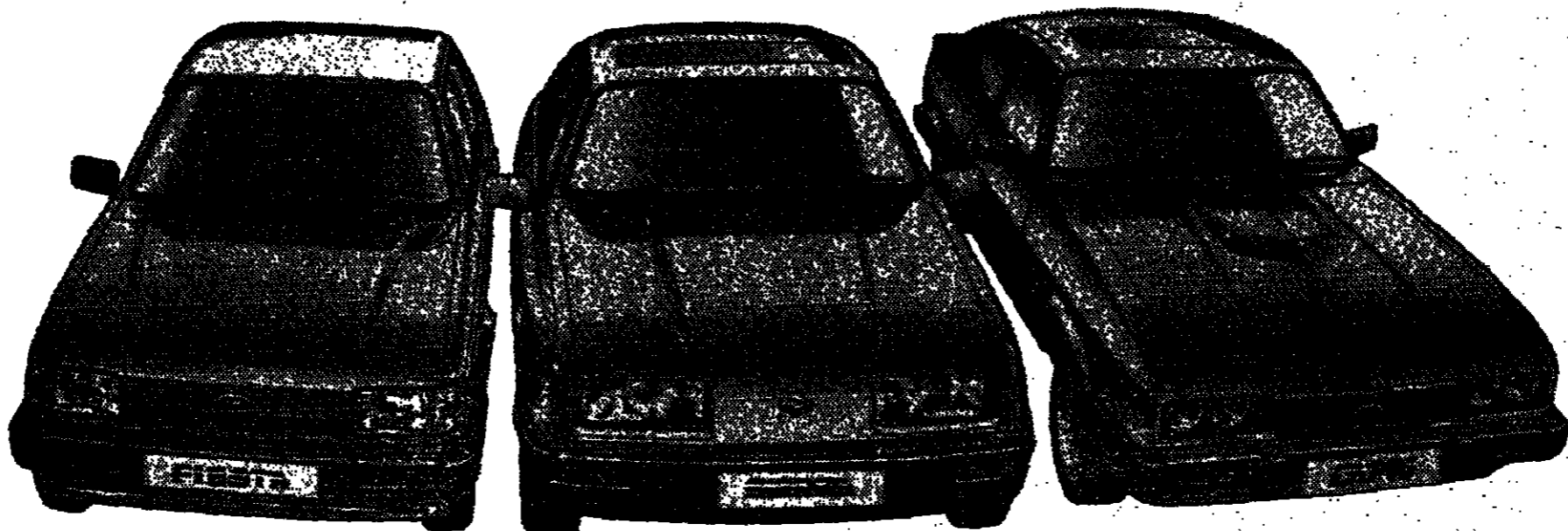
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Rodamco offer out

Rodamco Property, the Dutch company bidding £179 million for Haslemere Estates, sent out its offer document last night. It argues that Haslemere has underperformed the rest of the property sector and that Rodamco's offer of 600p per share cash is a fair price, a sentiment with which the market seems to agree.

CTG chief

Lord Pennock is to be the next chairman of the Channel Tunnel Group. He takes up the appointment next month.



Posgate fight to carry on

Mr Ian Posgate (above) is to appeal against last week's decision by the Council of Lloyd's not to readmit him to the market because he was not a "fit and proper" person to underwrite. His six-month suspension, imposed for receiving a Pissarro painting as an inducement to place business, ended on January 8.

Beazer offer

Beazer has received sufficient acceptances under its offer for French Kier to acquire compulsorily any outstanding French Kier shares.

Hunter buys

Hunter has agreed to acquire wood and board distributors Christie and Vesey for £1.6 million in cash.

71.4% accept

Morgan Crucible has acceptances for 71.4 per cent of First Castle Electronics shares and its offer has been declared unconditional.

Oil options

The New York Mercantile Exchange expects to trade options on its crude oil futures contract this year. Mr Michel Marks, chairman of the exchange, said yesterday.

Coffee switch

Soaring coffee prices have forced the International Coffee Organization to suspend coffee export quotas. With prices at least 40 cents above the maximum of 140 cents a pound set by the International Coffee Agreement, the ICO announced yesterday that members would be allowed to export as much as they wanted.

UB offers £2.5bn for Imps as Hanson raises bid

By Alison Eadie

The battle for Imperial Group took off yesterday with Hanson Trust raising its bid to £2.28 billion and United Biscuits, whose merger with Imperial was referred last week to the Monopolies Commission, stealing the initiative from Imperial and topping the Hanson offer with a record breaking £2.5 billion bid.

Imperial put out a holding statement to its shareholders, but last night it was locked in meetings with United Biscuits and is expected to recommend the UB offer. Both companies have emphasized throughout their merger campaign the industrial logic of their proposals and the lack of industrial logic of the Hanson offer.

UB said that after the sale of Golden Wonder, for which there are reported to be several interested parties, group gearing would be a manageable 35 per cent. Although UB

man and chief executive of the combined group straight away, instead of waiting for Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman of Imperial, to retire in March next year, Mr Kent would become a non-executive director.

United Biscuits has promised the Office of Fair Trading that it will sell off Golden Wonder, Imperial's snacks, crisps and nuts business, in order to avoid a competition reference. UB and Imperial together have over 40 per cent of the British snacks market, which triggered the reference to the Monopolies Commission. UB's snacks division, KP Foods, is larger than Golden Wonder, which had a turnover in 1984 of £117.2 million and pretax profits of £8.1 million.

UB said that after the sale of Golden Wonder, for which there are reported to be several interested parties, group gearing would be a manageable 35 per cent. Although UB

Sir Hector, under UB's bid terms, would become chair-



Sir Hector Laing: keen to compete with the Americans

shareholders do end up with less of the combined group under the new terms the difference is 31.4 per cent after conversion or 40 per cent before conversion as against 40 per cent under the old terms. Hanson Trust also forecast pretax profits this year of £340 million, an increase of 34 per cent.

United Biscuits is offering five of its shares and five convertible preferred shares plus 275p cash for six Imperial shares. At yesterday's closing price its offer values each Imperial share at 329p against a closing price in the market of 320p, up 29p. UB shares closed down 11p at 231p. UB is also offering 775p cash instead of the cash and preferred element of the main offer, which is worth 321.7p a share.

Hanson has offered for each Imperial share one of its shares plus 153p cash worth 301p per share at Hanson's closing price yesterday of 148p, down 3p. Alternatively it has offered one Hanson and 153p of 10 per cent convertible stock or one Hanson and 153p of 12 per cent loan notes. The full cash alternative is worth 293p a share. Both Hanson and UB are allowing Imperial shareholders to keep Imperial's recommended final dividend of 6.6p.

Holmes à Court raises bid for BHP to £1.71 billion

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Mr Robert Holmes à Court yesterday sent out the clearest signal yet that his move on the Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP) is not, as many commentators have suggested, a share-boosting manoeuvre, but a genuine attempt to take over Australia's biggest corporate enterprise.

Unveiling his latest bid, worth up to Aus\$3.5 billion (£1.71 billion) in Melbourne yesterday, Mr Holmes à Court, head of the Bell Group, said it retained many of the features of the Bell offer made on February 1. He declined to give a commitment that if he gained control of "the big Australian" he would not break it up.

The offer is to buy 50 per cent of each shareholder's stake, at Aus\$7.70. The alternative offer is a Bell share plus Aus\$2.50 for each BHP share, also up to half of a holding. There are three new conditions in the bid: that a minimum of 250 million BHP shares must be acquired; that Bell not be required to lay out

more than Aus\$2 billion in cash; and that Bell should not have to issue more than Aus\$250 million of its shares. Mr Holmes à Court conceded that these conditions meant that the bid could run into trouble if it resulted in acceptances requiring Bell to issue more than the stipulated quota of shares or put up more than Aus\$2 billion in cash.

Mr Brian Eaton, managing director of BHP, acknowledged the offer as "a very serious bid" but said it suffered from the same defect as the last one. He said it was a totally inadequate consideration for passing the company into what would, in effect, be the control of one man. He would not detail how

BHP would go about preventing the takeover. In answer to a question, he said Mr Holmes à Court would not be invited to join the BHP board.

Mr Holmes à Court denied suggestions that he had bowed to political pressure in changing from a pro-rata to a proportional bid.

He confirmed that success of the offer would give Bell Group the ability to influence the composition of the board, but said any new directors would be obliged to act in the interests of shareholders rather than Bell.

Mr Holmes à Court criticized BHP's recent acquisition of two American interests and its commitment to develop a copper mine in Chile.

But he added: "Bell Resources Holdings and Bell Resources do not propose any change to the redeployment of the fixed assets of BHP and, in particular, do not propose any change to the location of the BHP head office."

Indonesia 'may raise oil output'

By Teresa Poole

Indonesia yesterday fell into step with several of its partners in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and said it might raise oil production and adopt a "flexible" pricing structure to meet revenue targets.

Dr Subroto, the country's mines and energy minister, told the parliament in Jakarta that Indonesia would produce oil at the level necessary to secure planned export income, but would stay in line with Opec policies.

Indonesia is producing about 1.3 million barrels of oil a day and has a maximum daily output of 1.7 million barrels.



Dr Subroto: fighting for a "fair" market share

Until the beginning of this year, Indonesia had been one of Opec's more disciplined members, observing quota and price decisions. Most of its oil is sold to the Far East, but in January its biggest customer, Japan, started to buy heavily in the European market.

Oil and natural gas are expected to earn 70 per cent of Indonesia's foreign exchange revenue of \$18.9 billion for the year starting April 1. Earlier this month, at a special committee meeting in Vienna attended by Dr Subroto, Opec confirmed its free-for-all policy of increasing production to gain a larger share of the world market.

Dr Subroto told the Indonesian parliament that the committee - Indonesia, Venezuela, Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates - agreed to increase production in order to obtain a "fair" share of the market. It would recommend at next month's full Opec meeting that the cartel's oil production be adjustable to the market situation, he added.

"In principle, the market share will be larger than the production ceiling of 16 million barrels a day officially adopted by Opec at present."

The price which Opec should charge for its oils was a tool which the group would use in confronting non-Opec producers to fight for its market share, Dr Subroto said.

NatWest to reorganize its services

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster, the clearing bank with the largest branch network, yesterday announced plans for an important reorganization of its customer services designed to provide a more competitive service to corporate and personal clients.

Over a three-year period NatWest will set up more than 100 corporate banking centres in busy commercial areas to provide service direct to large corporate customers. It will also develop groupings of smaller branches in about 450 areas to cater for personal customers and small businesses.

The groupings will be linked to a lead branch in each area which will co-ordinate the smaller branches and handle the larger business accounts. About 2,000 of the bank's 3,000 branches will be affected.

The local command structure within the bank will be simplified by replacing the two-tier system of eight regional and 45 area offices with a single tier of 25 strengthened area offices.

The bank is reducing its branch network by some 50 offices, and the latest plans will mean shedding a further 50 by 1990.

The new corporate banking centres will complement a system of 18 international banking centres.

Laing and Bechtel launch oil venture

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The British subsidiary of the American Bechtel group and the construction firm John Laing have established a new joint company which could lead to an increase in the use of American technology in British offshore oil and gas engineering projects.

The new company, Laing Bechtel Petroleum Development, will undertake conceptual design and engineering work for projects on the UK's Continental Shelf and in overseas markets. The company, of which Laing holds 51 per cent, said the association "will assist the development and expedite the transfer of technology within the British offshore industry".

Bechtel was involved in about 11 big North Sea development projects up to 1983, but since then the Department of Energy has frowned on the use of American technology and urged that offshore expertise should be anchored in the UK.

The department's Offshore Supplies Office, recognizing Bechtel's world reputation, has been working behind the scenes to try to find a suitable British partner to establish a joint venture company, and Laing's involvement is the result of 10 months of discussions.

The move was welcomed yesterday by Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Energy, as "a powerful partnership".

At the same time he cautioned that shareholders should wait to see what he says in his formal offer document.

A statement said he intended to develop the business and wanted to keep a listing on the Stock Exchange for Campari shares. He is understood to want to achieve a total holding of between 50 per cent and 75 per cent.

Mr Nordin is a director and 30 per cent shareholder of a Swedish sports and camping gear company, Fjallraven Sport equipment.

Campari in £1.8m deal

Mr Ake Nordin, a Swedish businessman, yesterday announced a £1.8 million deal to buy large family shareholdings in Campari, the sports equipment firm.

He has agreed to buy the holdings of Mr Harry Lipton, chairman, and Mrs Roberta Benschler, and their family trust, paying 49p a share. Announcing the deal, which gives him 47.76 per cent of the north London company's shares, he said he would offer to make a full-scale takeover bid for the company at 49p a share.

Shop sales fall after Christmas record

By Derek Harris and Edward Townsend

After the record Christmas Britain's shops saw trade fall away last month as the New Year sales period was followed by slack trading and the start of the arctic weather. But clothing sales are flourishing, according to new figures released today by the Confederation of British Industry.

Retail sales last month were down 1.1 per cent compared with December when the index of sales volume reached a record 117.3 (1980=100), leaving the January index at 116, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The value of sales in January was up 7 per cent on the same month last year while in the same month this year sales

annual comparison was 8 per cent.

Sales in the three-month period November to January were up 3.5 per cent compared with the same period a year ago.

The score of department stores of the John Lewis Partnership reported doing well during January but by the middle of the month sales were easing, with an increase in the week ended January 25 of only 8.7 per cent. This is an increase in real terms, allowing for inflation, of about 5 per cent.

In the last week of the month bad weather struck and the sales increase was 5.3 per cent in the week to February 1. In real terms this put sales

little above last year's levels.

There have been reports to the Retail Consortium, the trade body for most retailers, that stores have been hit by bad weather this month.

The John Lewis department stores, on the other hand, showed a sharp improvement despite the weather in the first week of February with improving 14.9 per cent. A factor appears to be that snow made travelling difficult only in some parts of the country and then had only a limited effect after the first few days.

Meanwhile, the British are buying more clothes than ever which is helping maintain a high level of sales in the high street, according to the CBI's latest distributive trades survey, covering 600 companies. Sales in shops and stores continue to flourish, according to the CBI.

Last month, clothing shops reported the largest rise in sales of any sector and are also the most optimistic about prospects for this month with 71 per cent predicting another increase in turnover. Only the confectionery, tobacco and newsagents' sectors expect lower sales this month compared with a year ago.

Sales by wholesalers are said to be slowing down after the December boom, but the CBI stresses that higher-than-expected sales over the New Year period have left them with depleted stocks.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Britain's £70 billion North Sea legacy

It is a sign that the market is in high ground when the law of equal and opposite reasoning comes into operation. The best current example is the impact of oil prices on the United Kingdom. When North Sea oil fetched more than \$30 a barrel, Britain exulted in its petro-dollar status. North Sea induced economic activity raised the growth level, the balance of payments was in handsome surplus; oil tax revenue flowed into the Exchequer.

On its way down, the oil price became a portent of economic disaster, not least because diminishing oil revenues robbed the Chancellor of most of the wherewithal for electorally popular, and economically desirable, tax cuts. With crude oil now down to half its former level, the mood has changed. Cheap energy is now deemed to be of equal value to high price North Sea oil. The arguments can be disputed; but not the sentiment.

While the consequences of an oil-inflated pound were a steeper decline and higher unemployment than might otherwise have occurred in the early 1980s, the other side of the coin looks very pleasing. Britain accumulated huge assets overseas, which now total some £70 billion. These assets are easily capable of yielding an income of \$5 billion, and maybe as much as £7 billion a year. The legacy of oil at \$30 a barrel is one of the highest ratios of external assets to gross national product of any leading industrial country.

In 1985, Britain's net return on the oil trading account was £8.2 billion. The income from external assets built up during the oil-rich years is thus already not far short of the surplus from actually trading in oil last year. It may, in fact, very soon exceed it since the fall in oil prices will erode the £3 billion dispatched abroad to foreign companies with investments in the North Sea.

The good news does not stop there. As Dr David Lomax, group economic adviser to National Westminster Bank, puts it:

"The effect of the fall in the oil price has pushed sterling to a level where British products should be much more competitive as against European and worldwide competition. The movement in the sterling exchange rate is all the Confederation of British Industry could have wished for."

Options open

The current bout of takeover fever is wonderful business for the Stock Exchange's traded options market, never mind that it is speculative rather than answering those more worthy aims normally claimed for options and futures.

Last month, Distillers joined the list of individual stocks traded, along with Boots and Cable & Wireless. The three together accounted for some 12 per cent of the recorded volume achieved, with rumours about Boots adding to the more obvious appeal of trading in Distillers.

Yesterday, the exchange announced that Blue Circle will join the list from Thursday. It will be the 36th company option traded, along with three gilt-edged stocks and the contract on the FT-SE 100 share index.

The policy of increasing the numbers of contracts steadily month by month has undoubtedly helped build up the market, which has grown by leaps and bounds after a slow start in 1978-79.

There were tax problems then

which confined business to call options. That was sorted out in 1981. Since then, new stocks, particularly British Telecom plus the index contract from 1984, have produced accelerating growth in the heady atmosphere of boom. By 1984, contracts topped the million mark and volume doubled again last year to 2.28 million.

The index contract has been something of a disappointment for the marketmakers. There are problems for institutional managers who need separate permissions under their trust deeds for trading in an index, rather than in individual stocks where there is real stock to be delivered at the end of the paper contracts.

Even so, the FT-SE contract, despite related competition from the rival market Life, accounts for about 12 per cent of the contracts, with contracts totalling about £175 million open at the last count. By contrast, stock contracts open now total about £700 million.

In the United States, however, contracts on the equivalent Standard & Poor's index dominate not merely option business but sometimes equity turnover as a whole

Gilts wait on GB

Gilts dutifully went for their life yesterday after traders had spent a restless weekend brooding about the disinflationary environment prevailing in New York and other points east.

Longs opened about 5/8 point up, eased back a fraction on mid-morning profit-taking, and then pushed ahead again as fresh demand materialized to underpin the market; Treasury 2003/07 put on about a point in this way. Both mediums and shorts improved by some 3/8 point.

A trifle gratuitously, the Government Broker announced that he had exhausted supplies of his most recent new issue, Treasury 10 per cent 1993.

But the price at which he exhausted the tap was eye-catching - £206 per cent, or a fully paid up price of £94½. This is clearly comfortably above the allotment price, and serves to emphasize just what a bargain Government stocks now are. Perhaps the moral of the announcement is that more stock sales are on the way.

Plenty of traders yesterday were prepared to bet on a fleeting appearance of the Government Broker today at 3.30. January borrowing figures for the public sector will be published at 2.30, and the median forecast is for a net repayment of debt to the tune of some £2.3 billion, whether or not the authorities are still sitting on a heap of unrepresented cheques.

The market ought to like that figure. It would add up to a cumulative borrowing figure for 1985-86 of about £5½ billion, putting the Chancellor well on target for his total projected figure for the year of £8 billion. Judging by the way that recent Government data has tended to outperform expectations, it must be a reasonable bet that the published figure will be better than market hopes.

Judging by the performance yesterday of the US long bond futures, the American market, closed for the President's Day, has retained its bullish edge. The combination of a strong market in New York and good UK economic data could add up to an irresistible background for extra funding moves. Last night the balance of market views favoured an early 21st century stock.

Changes at Great Portland

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Mr Basil Samuel's switch from chairman of Great Portland Estates to its life president is seen as the forerunner of changes in the property company's operation.

The market is looking to Mr Richard Peskin, the new managing director and chairman, to set a faster pace.

Great Portland is seen as a prime takeover candidate in the sector although Mr Samuel's stake - 6.2 per cent of beneficial holdings and 3 per cent of non-beneficial shares - makes such a move unlikely. There are no indications that the former chairman intends to sell.

Great Portland has gradually been changing its portfolio to give a more attractive asset base. It has a high exposure to the City of London office market and recently let its development at 80 Bishopsgate to a foreign bank at a healthy rent.

It has been selling part of its Great Portland Street portfolio but if changes in planning law come through, it could benefit by transforming industrial property into offices.

All you need to start your own Airline



Highland Express plc offer for subscription of up to 5,000,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at 60p per share. Led by Randolph Fields who co-founded Virgin Atlantic Airways. BES tax relief may be available. Travel privileges for certain founder investors. The subscription list will close at 5pm on or before 5.00 pm, March 2nd, 1986. If you would like a copy of the Prospectus on the basis of which any application of shares is made, please return the coupon below or phone Parsons & Co. Ltd 041 332 8791. To Susan Ambrose, Parsons & Co Ltd, 100 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2QU. Please send me a copy of the Highland Express plc Prospectus. Name: Address: I understand that any application for shares is solely on the basis of the prospectus. Highland Express

BASE LENDING RATES table with columns for bank names and interest rates (e.g., ABN 12%, Agam & Company 12%, BCCI 12%, Citibank Savings 12%, etc.)



WALL STREET

New York (AP-D) Traders and analysts said a powerful rally in the bond market helped the stock market overcome repeated small pull-backs...

The Dow Jones industrial average closed was 1664.45 up 19.38. There were 158 issues advancing, 495 declining and 383 unchanged.

Volume totaled 155,590,000 shares compared with 136,490,000 shares yesterday.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index was 126.65, up 1.24.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., AMR, ASA, Allied Signal) and their corresponding prices and changes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table titled 'STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES' showing exchange rates for various currencies like the Dollar, Swiss Franc, and others.

COMMODITIES

Table titled 'LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE' listing prices for commodities such as Rubber, Soybean meal, and Coffee.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table titled 'EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %' showing interest rates for various deposit terms and currencies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

COMMODITIES

Table titled 'LONDON METAL EXCHANGE' showing prices for metals like Aluminum, Copper, and Lead.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing various financial trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table providing detailed information for various unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance metrics.

TEMPUS

Dealers may take fright when bid fever passes

The Hanson Trust-Imperial Group-United Biscuits triangle pushed the market to yet higher peaks yesterday morning. But by the afternoon much of the excitement had vanished. It seems that dealers are uncertain whether these record bids herald yet more of the same or whether Hanson has once again called the tune.

Optimism is not unique to London. Last week both Wall Street and the Japanese equity markets hit new highs and the smaller markets of Hong Kong, West Germany and Australia, though less buoyant, are still not far off their best.

Baldly, confidence in Japan can be explained in terms of lower oil prices, while Wall Street is benefiting from international flows of capital, principally from Japan, and a series of record economic numbers. The reasons for London's startling performance are, however, more difficult to find because oil is clearly a mixed blessing, given that the recent fall-out reduces the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre.

Singapore faces short, sharp economic shock

By Our Financial Staff

The economic programme aimed at shocking Singapore's economy out of its sudden trough of stagnation will be given a sharp boost of urgency today, when Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong steps up from a junior government post to the Cabinet as Finance Minister for trade and industry.



Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong

Brigadier-General Lee is the heir-apparent son of the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, and has been chairman of the committee charged with drawing up the reform package. The full report of the committee is about to be submitted and publication in Singapore is expected in the next few days.

Shares break record despite profit-taking

STOCK MARKET REPORT

The stock market extended last week's record advance, despite profit-taking during the day. The FT 30-share index closed at 1220.7, up 1.9 and the FT-SE index of 100 shares gained 4.4 to 1477.9.

Gilts had a good day on hopes of lower US interest rates, scoring gains of up to 7/8. Last week's Treasury tap stock 10 per cent 1993 was exhausted at £20 3/4.

Profit-taking after the trading results lowered Mann and Co 12p at 273p. Bid speculation prompted a sharp 53p jump in Miss World at 218p. Others wanted for this reason included Granada 8p up at 236p, Wordplex 15p higher at 91p, and Maxprint 7p better at 32p.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for company name, price, and change.

RHP plans £24m buyouts

RHP Group has conditionally agreed to buy two fire and explosion control companies from Allegheny International. The £24.25 million price for Graviner and Deuga will be met with 18.49 million new RHP ordinary shares, all of which have been conditionally placed. About 53 per cent of the new shares will be offered to RHP shareholders.

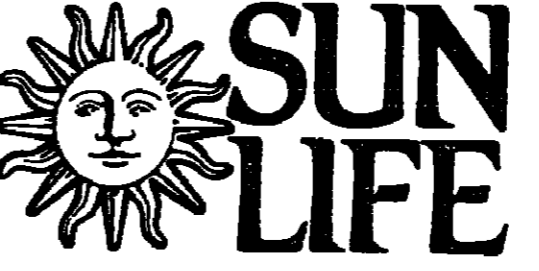
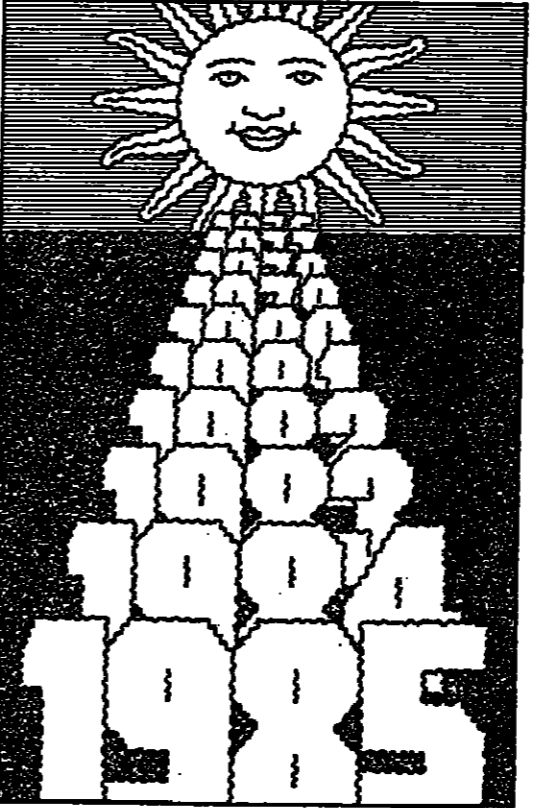
COMPANY NEWS

- JAMEX RESOURCES: The Canadian explorer has begun an 80-hole drilling programme to test the 50 sq mile gold prospect it has farmed into at Courty Tyronne, Northern Ireland.
GOODHEAD PRINT GROUP: Results for the half year to November 30. Interim dividend 1p. Figures in £000.
ST HELENA GOLD MINES: As a result of a series of abnormality severe seismic events on February 10, several working places have been affected in the area served by no. 2 shaft.

Bank borrowings have been reduced to £8.8m at January 31, but the board considers this is still too high. CRANBROOK ELECTRONIC HOLDINGS: Dividend 0.5p (nil) for year to September 30. With figures in £000, turnover was 6,177 (6,291), gross profit 2,222 (1,864) after cost of sales 3,944 (4,427), pretax profit 475 (298), tax 193 (133) and earnings per share 3.9p (4.1p).

Sun Life: our dazzling decade

The last ten years has been the most successful in our history. With growth both rapid and consistent (Consider for instance, that dividends have grown by over 20% p.a. compound.) And that in an industry that's as tough and competitive as any in Britain.



Sun Life: our record ten years. Dividends up over 20% p.a. compound. Group funds up from £595 million to £3,267 million. Premium income up from £86 million to £415 million.

A major force in British Life for 175 years. SUN LIFE logo. For more information on one of Britain's most successful life and pensions offices, contact: Sun Life Assurance Society plc, on Facsimile 01-606 7788 or write to 107, Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU.

THE RIGHT HOME FOR YOUR PROPERTY. To advertise your property for sale in The Times Classified, fill in your advertisement in the space below. (Insert messages can be attached separately.)

MAJOR SHARE CHANGES. Rises: Maxprint 34 + 9, Miss World 220 + 55, Pengkalen 200 + 50, Aidcom Int 57 + 13, H and J Quick 71 + 13, Tanjong Tin 150 + 25, Wordplex 91 + 15, Amber Day 26.75 + 4, BL 58 + 9, Falls: Bolton Textile 17 - 2, CPS Computer 30 - 3, Lyle Shipping 11 - 1, Sunlight Electrical 20 - 1.50

COMMODITIES REVIEW

ITC delays put a spanner in the Newco works

It is now so long since the dynamic duo of Mr Ralph Kestenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals, and Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, tumbled down the chimney with their Christmas present of a solution to the tin crisis that their offering might better be called "Oldco".

APPOINTMENTS



Mark Cliffe: chief economist at ANZ

New chief for bank subsidiary

Bank of America: Mr Gerald Deberry has been made managing director of the London-based merchant banking subsidiary, Bank of America International Limited (BAIL). John Lewis Partnership: Mr David Young is to become the partnership's deputy finance director on June 30.

More breweries face threat of closure

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Overcapacity among Britain's brewers could mean further closures on top of the 14 breweries which have been shut down since 1980. Some City estimates suggest that more than a quarter of the industry's capacity is unused at a time when beer production is languishing with not much prospect of improvement in the immediate future.

This problem might only be solved if one or two of the major brewers were to close down all their breweries or if consumption were to rise by 50 per cent. The brewing industry has long contested Buckmaster and Moore estimates on excess capacity, partly because brewing techniques have changed but also because the industry always needs some spare capacity to meet peak summer demand.

DOING BUSINESS OVERSEAS WITHOUT AN INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK IS LIKE DRIVING IN A FOG

If your company has international ambitions, a relationship with an international merchant bank is a necessity, not a luxury - particularly if you are exploring unfamiliar territory. Today, most merchant banks describe themselves as "international", but in reality very few have the network and the resources to support the claim.

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Micro memory prices plunge

By Geoff Wheelwright

The days of the empty personal computer are numbered. In recent months the cost of adding to the innards of microcomputers has plummeted, making it much easier for users to make more of their business systems.

'Prospects good' for N Sea oil

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

World oil price uncertainty will have only a marginal effect on the pace of future North Sea oil developments, according to Gaffney Cline, the international energy adviser.

Duty of directors who prefer their own bid

In re a Company No 008699 of 1985. Before Mr Justice Hoffmann [Judgment given February 13]. Mr Justice Hoffmann dismissed a motion to strike out a petition in which the petitioners alleged that the directors had acted in a manner prejudicial to their interests by favouring a lower bid for the company's shares from a company promoted by the directors in preference to a higher bid from a trade competitor.

Eurobond dealers fear Bill

By Clare Dobie

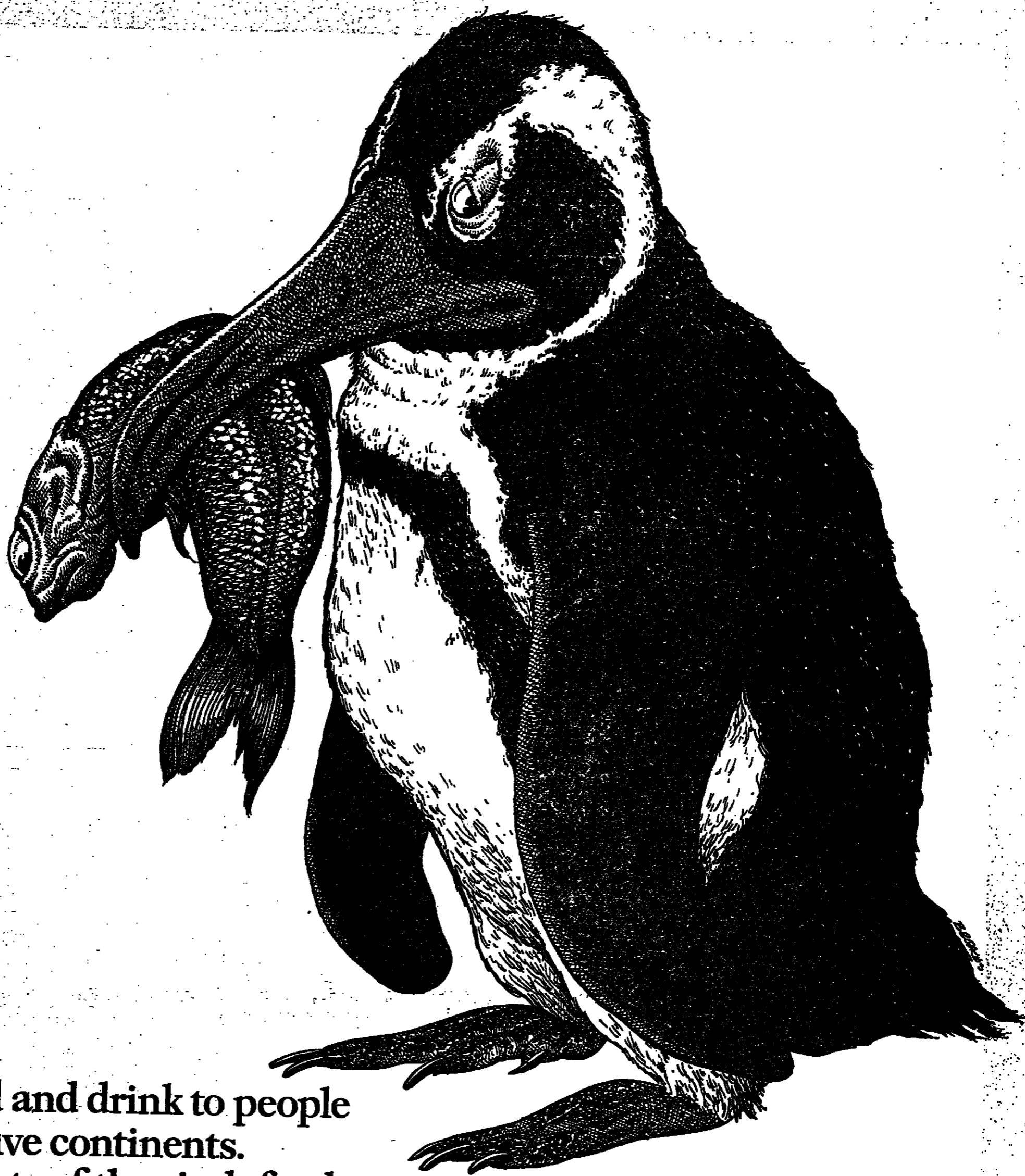
Concern is growing that the Eurobond market will be driven out of London by the Financial Services Bill. Dealers are worried that the detailed regulatory clauses of the Bill are unsuited to the fast-moving and international nature of the bond market.

Unfair dismissal claim over retiring age

Swaine v Health and Safety Executive. Before Mr Justice Popplewell. Mr W Sirs and Miss A F Vale [Judgment given February 13]. A civil servant aged 63 at the date of his dismissal was held to be entitled to bring a complaint of unfair dismissal on the ground that a purported reduction in the normal retiring age from 65 to a band of between 62 and 63 was insufficiently definite to constitute a normal retiring age, so that the statutory alternative of 65 applied.

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Report February 18
y of director
who prefer
their own bid



**We're food and drink to people
of five continents.
Inhabitants of the sixth fend
for themselves.**

Primitive though they are, most of the population of Antarctica know exactly where their last meal came from.

Which is something that can't be said of the people of the more advanced countries of the world.

In the States they think Baskin-Robbins, one of the world's biggest ice-cream chains, is as American as Apple Pie. Which is hardly surprising as it's run entirely by Americans.

But it's owned by Allied-Lyons. A British company.

Clogs, windmills, tulips, advocaat, what could be more Dutch?

The advocaat. Warninks, Holland's biggest producer of advocaat is British owned and it's part of Allied-Lyons.

All over the world people have got into the habit of drinking sherry before, during or after a meal. Hardly the thing to do, eh what?

But we don't mind. The chances are they're drinking Harveys, the world's biggest selling sherry, once again from Allied-Lyons.

It's much the same with port.

In over 50 countries they don't know, or care, which way to pass the port. But they do know which port to pass. It's Cockburns.

We could go on.

Allied-Lyons have over 200 brands, many of which are household names in countries the world over. But we're not just sitting back counting the profits, considerable though they are.

This financial year alone, we plan to invest a massive £190 million in the business and in 1985 we launched well over 100 new products worldwide.

Last year we made record pre-tax profits of £219 million and achieved £945 million worth of business overseas, without any help from our flippered friends down there in Antarctica.

Allied-Lyons
GOING ON GROWING

ent is
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THE TIMES

Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year gain or loss. Lists various companies like Bilton Ltd, Core Aliman, etc.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total. Shows daily dividend amounts.

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists British Funds.

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'SHORTS (Under Five Years)'.

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS'.

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'OVER FIFTEEN YEARS'.

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'UNDATED'.

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'INDEX-LINKED'.

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Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'ELECTRICALS'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'INDUSTRIALS A-D'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'BREWERIES'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'BUILDINGS AND ROADS'.

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Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'DRAPERY AND STORES'.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +41 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'OVERSEAS TRADERS'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'PROPERTY'.

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Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'SHOES AND LEATHER'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'TEXTILES'.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'TOBACCO'S'.

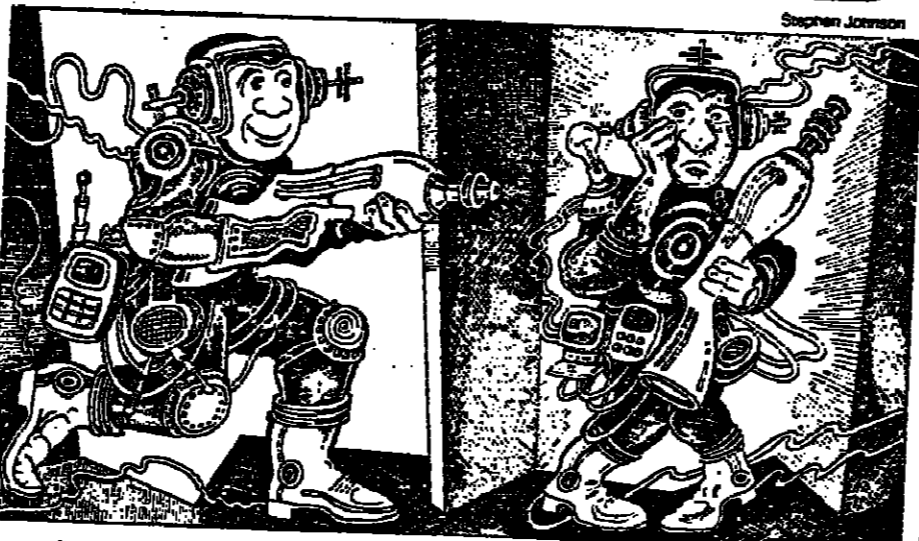
Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various stocks under 'OIL'.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS

Good news in US for UK software

By Geoff Wheelwright
The micro computer business in the US seems to be on the mend. Out of the ashes of the difficult past year have come Commodore and good news for Apple and Compaq.



Scoring points in fantasy land

From Peggy Anderson in Chicago
A new fantasy game is giving American adults a chance to indulge in fictional forays into deep space while zapping each other with toy ray guns.

All the news in an instant

At least the British information providers are taking the first cohesive steps towards establishing themselves as a credible industry.

Sir Clive is back with new launch

By Matthew May
Sir Clive Sinclair's launch last week of a £180 version of the popular Spectrum home computer was accompanied by a barrage of surveys as the company tried to prove that the death of the home computer market has been greatly exaggerated.

Superchip could cut cost of storage

By Ian Dawson
Developments in Japan could revolutionize the storage of information on personal computers and mark the end of the disc drives widely used on microcomputers.

Boost in profits for IBM UK

IBM UK has announced a 60 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £308 million for 1979, a year in which IBM's total operations throughout the world were hard pressed to even equal 1978's profit.

Banks caught in Swift software snarl-up

By Eamonn Quinn
Nearly 1,300 users of a computerized message carrying network around the world were told last month that their revamped network would be delayed by up to one year.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

On ITV information is transmitted at the same time as the picture.

If the BBC project is successful it could make it one of the most important information providers in the UK.

The corporation, usually staid and conservative in its approach to many things, is breaking new ground.

The corporation would take the information provided by the client - racing news or changes in shop prices - and broadcast them at specific times in the day on the spare Ceefax lines.

British Telecom is also breaking new ground by offering a database service. Doubtless the corporation, now free from the bondage of being a public utility, has been inspired by the success of Reuters, whose financial services have transformed the group into a multi-million dollar company.

British Telecom intends to unveil the service at the end of the spring. The electronic information service, to be called Hotline, could make it the principal information service operator in the UK.

And what of Mead Data Central International? Although an American company, it could give the British industry the inspiration that it needs. The group's computer database has 30 million articles, with a further 65,000 articles added each week.

This electronic library contains information on legal, business and general and specialist news.

Similarly, the Thorn-EMI computer group Datasolve has been compiling such a library calling the information from The Times, Financial Times, Economist, The Guardian, BBC World Service and Pravda.

The newspaper industry, which is now at the beginning of a painful electronic revolution, is sitting on a goldmine. The "old" words printed years, if not decades, ago, still have value. They can become the core of the new databases of tomorrow and produce a valuable source of secondary income, which one day might become primary income, for quality newspapers.

Advertisement for PFS software featuring the image of the Statue of Liberty and the headline 'We've taken America by storm.' Includes text about PFS software's success in the US and a list of features.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

Code revenge
The financial analyst Alvin Frost believed he was on the way out with Washington City Hall and found a novel way to get revenge.

Hacker-cracker
A "hacker-cracker" has been developed to prevent outsiders from breaking into company computer systems.

Electric ABC
Parents who want to introduce their offspring to new technology as soon as possible can now buy a £34 word processing program which will work on BBC micros and is designed for primary school children.

Hard disc drives appear certain too. Price is where Citizen's chips are most likely to compete. While admitting that exact prices are difficult to predict, the company believes that the first commercially available chips will sell for about £70.

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Advertisement for 'Total Package' software, listing various modules like Sales Ledger, Stock Ledger, and Invoicing, with a total price of £247.50.

Advertisement for Wright Air Conditioning, offering services for computer rooms and general air conditioning.

Advertisement for IBM PC XT/ED 10mb, £2295, highlighting features like 256k memory and 360k diskette drive.

Advertisement for PFS software, stating it is the best selling business software where software can't be second best, and providing contact information for Morse Computers.

CRICKET: INJURY MAY KEEP BOTHAM OUT OF FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL AGAINST WEST INDIES

ATHLETICS

Budding talent may be lost to England

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

It looks as if an attempt by the South African junior cross-country champion Terry Thornton to follow in Zola Budd's footsteps to an England team place and a tilt at a world cross-country title will fail, despite Thornton having a British passport.

Europeans under fire

Mike Turner, the British team manager for this weekend's European indoor athletics championships in Madrid, has hit out at the fixture organisers.

Bubka wins

Rosemont, Illinois (AP) - Sergei Bubka cleared 5.81 metres on Sunday to win the pole vault at the Bally Invitational meeting held in the past six weeks to compete in the event.

Parrott is a talking point again

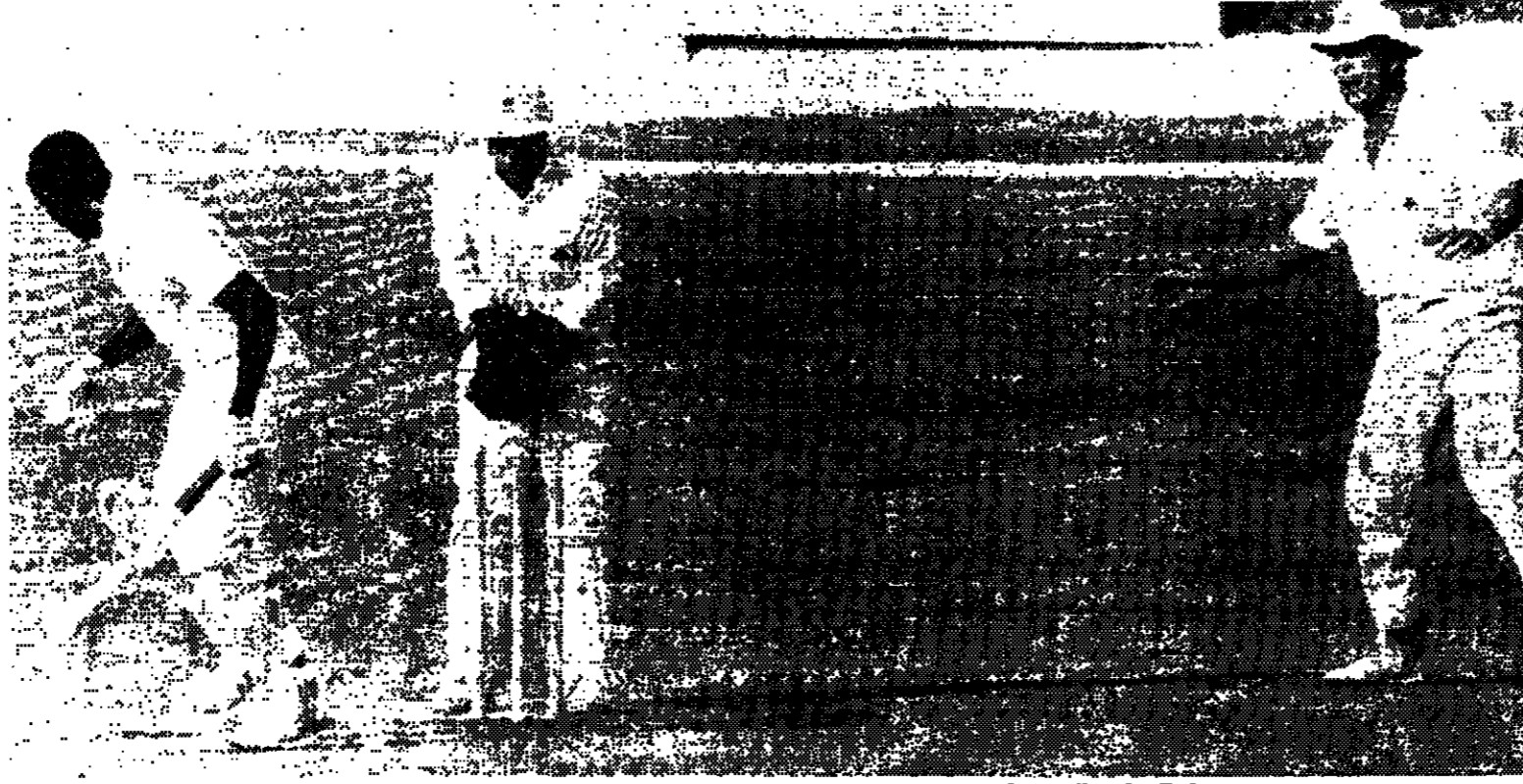
John Parrott, aged 21, from Liverpool, who had been out of the limelight in recent months, moved into the fifth round of the Dular British open championship at Derby yesterday with a smooth 5-0 victory over Patsy Fagan.

SQUASH RACKETS

The world's leading players are gathering in England this month as the international tournament circuit moves into its European phase.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing various sports records, including basketball, football, ice hockey, luge, orienteering, road running, and rugby union.



Delight for Embury as he claims his only wicket, bowling the Jamaican tail-ender Daley

England need a man Friday Northern Districts press on

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Jamaica

England's preparations for today's one-day international against West Indies, the first of four scheduled for the tour, were clouded yesterday by doubts about the availability of Ian Botham, who had to leave the field on Sunday with a slight groin strain.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard table for the cricket match, showing innings for England and Jamaica with player names and scores.

England's preparations for today's one-day international against West Indies, the first of four scheduled for the tour, were clouded yesterday by doubts about the availability of Ian Botham, who had to leave the field on Sunday with a slight groin strain.

TENNIS: RETURN OF THE BECKER PROTOTYPE AND ARRIVAL OF THE LAVER CLONE

Connors is left to lift morale

American tennis continues to be a source of some embarrassment to a nation used to success. Although the courts here are unusually slow, cement is supposed to be the surface on which American players thrive but only four of them reached the last 16 of the Lipton International men's championship.



Helena Sukova returns a backhand on her way to beating Catarina Lindqvist

Pat Cash, who has been left in a wilderness of self-doubt since he reached the Wimbledon and United States semi-finals in 1984, has been challenged to prove that he can still produce.

Cash flows back eager to deliver the goods

Pat Cash, who has been left in a wilderness of self-doubt since he reached the Wimbledon and United States semi-finals in 1984, has been challenged to prove that he can still produce.

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YACHTING: CUDMORE AND CREW PLEASED WITH THEIR AMERICA'S CUP APPROACH

Meeting the technological challenge

Crew members from the British America's Cup challenge, led by Harold Cudmore who joined forces with the French to race the three-year-old conventional design in 1983 which won the championship off Fremantle, returned home yesterday convinced that their technological approach to winning back the cup this time next year has been correct.

Turnaround as Blake's Lion moves to front

Peter Blake and his crew aboard the Holland-designed 76ft maxi Lion New Zealand moved up from sixth to first in a dramatic about-turn yesterday in the Whitbread round-the-world race as the leaders began to feel the effect of the Roaring Forties on the long tow towards Cape Horn (Barry Pickthall writes).

Fast men have yet to hit the stumps

From Simon Wilde, Colombo

Interest here yesterday centred on how England's three fast bowlers would fare on a pitch which, it was thought, would benefit them more than most others they have met in Sri Lanka.

The one wicket that fell came in Lawrence's first over. Warnakulasuriya fending a ball limply into the hands of gully, Samarasekera never looked like giving in so easily, although Samarasekera was dropped when 31 and again when 91.

Lawrence and Cowans have had little success on this tour and if there were an injury among the opening bowlers in West Indies neither could seriously come into the reckoning as a replacement. Cowans has taken only five wickets for 222 runs in 66 overs and Lawrence six for 427 in 107 overs.

Lawrence, too, produced awkward deliveries but was more erratic. In his second over he was warned for running down the line of the stumps and returned to the attack in his seventh, after which he went round the wicket. He then began to bowl no-balls but would have had Madugalle caught off one of these if it had been a legitimate ball.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's sports fixtures, including football, rugby union, and other sports.

هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION

How England missed an opportunity for a vital conversion

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

One of the sadder aspects of Saturday's Calcutta Cup game, in which England presented such a sorry face...

at least, Hall, will not be chosen, a broken thumb has ruled him out and if Bath are in the fortunate position of having Simpson...

stepping up instead of the other Midlander, Robbins, and if the back row is to be altered en masse...

Welsh defeat

Wales' march towards the Miller Buckley universities championship was halted by Ireland at the weekend...

The potency of television as an advertising medium is not in doubt. In recent years it has given basketball and American football a massive lift...

Wales have an exciting back division to offer while Ireland, even in defeat, cut a decent dash at the weekend...

Alternatively, there remains the possibility of playing flankers left and right, as the French are doing this season...

Irish eyes on A N Other

By George Ace

It is a near certainty that the ubiquitous A.N. Other will appear at left wing in the Ireland side to meet England at Twickenham on Saturday week...

was on the substitutes' bench on Saturday. McCall's only cap to date was as a substitute against France last season...

Mobbs men

Four members of the Scotland team which beat England on Saturday have been selected by the Barbarians for the Mobbs memorial match against East Midlands at Northampton on March 5...

ROWING

Everything, even the kitchen sink

Cambridge, who were made Boat Race favourites last week by Ladbrokes, the sponsors, have since been frustrated by the weather, forced to find a substitute, changed their outfit, experimented with equipment...

IN BRIEF

Cram runs ahead of schedule

Steve Cram has confirmed that he will run in the national cross country championship at Newcastle's Town Moor on Saturday, March 1. The double world champion of 3500m...

Cambridge had gone to the Tideway to escape floating ice on the River Ouse at Ely. This is always a potential danger on Britain's exposed eastern flank...

However, he is anxious to play down expectations of what he might do on the day. "It'll simply be a matter of having a good workout. I've been around the course a couple of times and it is really tough."

Few, an American, was promoted to the stroke seat. Broughton went from stroke to six; and Pritchard, twice an Olympic silver medal winner, was placed in the bows at four.

By Jim Raitton

RUGBY LEAGUE

Surgery for Cronin

Sydney (AP) - Mick Cronin, one of Australia's greatest players, may be forced to retire after suffering an eye injury during a weekend match...

bowed by a team-mate during a pre-season friendly match, he was too swollen to establish whether he had suffered retina or optic nerve damage...

BOXING



The winner: Livingstone Bramble salutes victory with his son, Alunah

Bramble buckles against apartheid

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Reno, Nevada (Reuters) - Livingstone Bramble, the World Boxing Association lightweight champion, pummeled the leading contender, Tyrone Crawford...

Gerrie Coetzee, the World Boxing Association heavy-weight no.1 from South Africa, hit out at apartheid yesterday. Coetzee, who is in London for his world title defence against Frank Bruno at Wembley on March 4...

ICE HOCKEY

Scots give Redskins no respite

By a Special Correspondent

For many months Streatham Redskins have been travelling to Scotland more in hope than expectation. Two weeks ago, although without their leading defence man, Darrin Zinger...

arduous weekend during which they spent some 13 hours on touring. Six players shared the scoring and the clinching goal in a thriller game in the final minute as Unger shot into an empty net.

RIFLE SHOOTING

London University students finished 12th in their 1500m team event in the 1986 World Cup Rifle Shooting Championships...

GOLF

Skill in awkward positions helps Langer's progress

From John Ballantine, Honolulu

Bernhard Langer, the European no. 1, who is eating by far the greatest share of the foreign limelight here in the regrettable absence of that other lion of Europe, Severiano Ballesteros...

Both players know well how valuable strokes are at this stage, often being worth thousands of dollars. The difference between the two, in car terms, is that Faldo's drivers are like Rolls-Royce's giant cylinders...

Second win for Player

Florida (AP) - Gary Player scored a par 72 to hold off the challenge of Lee Elder...

over par in the last two days. Elder trailed by five strokes the turn but made it close by having the birdies in the final nine holes.

HOCKEY

Hounslow back in cup hunt

Hounslow qualified for the third round of the Hockey Association Cup with a 5-1 victory on Sunday over Chichester and will now meet the winners of the two-positioned second-round match between Southgate, the holders, and Old Kingstons...

BASKETBALL

Six clubs still eye play-offs

Sharp Manchester United may be champions-elect after their stunning 102-95 win at Kingston on Saturday but six clubs are still in contention for the three places yet to be filled for the national championship play-offs...

Sport to be enjoyed not seen as a crisis

This is the slack time of year for the sports book publishing trade. There are no new James Bond books this month. True, there will be three later in the year to make up for this slackening...

with love for the click-click click, and can write a bit too. "Why, you're a regular 'Whisperer', a young army officer in India called Neville Chamberlain Jibed (a spooker being a raw recruit). The rest is history, folks."

Standing Off: My Life In Rugby, by Gareth Davies with Terry Godwin (Queen Anne Press, £8.95). "The greatest of the I was lucky enough to have had the chances that others have not."

The Fighting Arts: Choosing The Way, compiled by David Scott and Mick Pappas (Rider, £2.95). A kind of 'Who's Who' guide to the martial arts.

With games this week's home to Worthing and at Birmingham. Bristol Ducks Usbridge and Camden have toy to their own hands to become the surprise packet among the last eight.

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DEATHS: MARGARET On February 15th...

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BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time with Salina Scott and Mike Smith in the London studio...

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain, presented by Nick Owen and Annika Riecke. Exercise and news with Gordon Homecombe...

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: memory - for the hearing impaired 9.50 The natural history of a valley...



Louise Brooks: profile in Arma. BBC 2 9.55pm

9.20 Cee-fax 10.30 Play School. 10.50 Cee-fax. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale...

1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Jane Fonda with the latest fashions for the mother-to-be and what trendy young tops are wearing this spring...

3.55 Postman Pat (4) 10.10 Jimbo and the Jet Set. Cartoon series 4.15 Action. Christopher Guard reports from the guard post of Sgt of the Dump...

6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. 6.35 London Plus. 7.00 Holiday. Sarah Kennedy reports from Bendinon on the effect of stricter policing of the place...

10.30 Hospital Watch. An update of the day's activities in the two Portsmouth hospitals. 11.00 Film 86. Barry Norman reviews Commando, Agnes of God, and Mr Love. In addition, Bette Davis talks about her life and career on the eve of recording the Life Achievement Award in France...

12.00 Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning made fun with puppets (1) 12.30 The Subjunctive. 1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkinson. 1.30 Shine On Harvey Moon. Comedy drama series...

3.00 Cee-fax. 3.30 News summary with subtitles. 5.35 Fast Forward. Video fun for the young presented by Fiona Benjamin. 6.00 News at Five. 6.50 The Adventure Game. The policeman in the service of the ruler of the planet Arg and Earthlings who are represented by Heather Courtenay, Keira Cheung and Adam Gilbey...

8.30 Food and Drink. Among the items this week are a decaffeinated tea tasting and a comparison of chilled foods with the frozen variety. 9.00 I, Claudius. Part six and John Hurt makes his appearance as Caligula, the son who was instrumental in the poisoning of his father, Germanicus...

9.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 10.50 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party. 11.00 Newsnight. 11.45 Weather. 11.50 Open University: Richard Dawkins. 12.40 Night Thoughts.

BBC 2

8.55 Open University: Motion - Newton's Law. Ends at 7.20. 9.20 Cee-fax. 9.20 Daytime on Two: For moderately mentally handicapped young adults 9.35 Spanish conversation 9.52 Maths: Fibonacci sequences (1) 15. Part six of The Boy From Space...

3.00 Cee-fax. 3.30 News summary with subtitles. 5.35 Fast Forward. Video fun for the young presented by Fiona Benjamin. 6.00 News at Five. 6.50 The Adventure Game. The policeman in the service of the ruler of the planet Arg and Earthlings who are represented by Heather Courtenay, Keira Cheung and Adam Gilbey...

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CHANNEL 4

2.30 Film: Seven Keys* (1992) starring Alan Doble and Jeanne Carson. Thriller about a woman who is left a set of keys in the will of a former cell-mate...

3.35 Paul Tomkowiak. Street Railway Switchman. Canadian made short profiling one of the unsung heroes of railway who is job is to keep street railway switches free of ice and mud. 3.45 Years Ahead. Magazine programme for the older viewer presented by Robert Douglas. This week's edition focuses on 'care in the community' and includes a discussion on provision for carers, with Hamlet Hamman and a representative of the total care movement...

6.00 Pop Quiz. Pop music quiz. 6.30 News. 6.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 7.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 8.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 9.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 10.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 11.55 Arma. Louise Brooks. A profile of the Hollywood actress who died last year, in which she talks candidly about her life which had more than a passing resemblance to Lulu, perhaps her most famous pleasure-seeking heroine of Wedekind's Pandora's Box. 12.00 News.

10.50 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party. 11.00 Newsnight. 11.45 Weather. 11.50 Open University: Richard Dawkins. 12.40 Night Thoughts.

12.40 Night Thoughts.

CHOICE

disparate and dependent: broad. Also, so-called group-ups had still more wounds to inflict on the Roberts family. Jeanette Roberts, Mum to 22 children though blood-mother to only one. When we last saw her, she was busy massaging nightmares out of her own convalescing lives. Some took more erasing than others, and there was more than one tear-stained face that registered doubt when the 'Mum' that every one of them had a right to feel ashamed and mistrust. I remember this film vividly because it illustrated how the vast machinery of the social services can be miniaturized in the shape of a single, caring individual such as Jeanette Roberts and a who haven't the wit to find out for themselves that vegetables can be a meal in their own right and not just an accompaniment to meat or fish. To watch master chef Peter Kromberg prepare his Strudel de légumes, for example, or a broccoli and almond soufflé is to experience salvation on a scale that is almost embarrassing to talk about. Best on radio today: Mahler's massive Symphony No 2, with the two Fairy-tales, Lord and Palmer (2.30-3.7.55pm). Juliet Ace's Afternoon Play Embroideries (Radio 4, 3.00pm) is a castigation of smug virtue. To end the day, you will need to keep on reminding yourself that it is a fairy tale for our times. Take Six Cooks (Channel 4, 8.30pm) reminds those of us...

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert. J. C. Bach (Sinfonia in D, Op 18 No 4), Brahms (Ballade in G minor, Op 118 No 3), Liszt (Piano Concerto No 3), Schubert (Entrée solo No 3 and other music from Rosamunde), 8.00 News. 8.05 Concert: part two. Wagner (Forest Transmutations), Donizetti (Una furtiva lagrima), Geocelin (Grieg) (Piano Concerto), Solovitz (Rachmaninoff), 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composers: Debussy and Massenet. Massenet (symphonic poem Isis), Debussy (ballet music Act 1). 10.00 Danish Radio 50. Nielsen (tragic opera An Imaginary Journey), Langgaard (Music of the Spheres). 10.50 Carli and Soter. Soter (Major for two organs); Scarlatti (Laetitia sum, with BBC Singers and soloists). 11.15 Israel Piano Trio. Mozart (Trio in G, K 498), and Brahms (Trio in G minor, Op 101). 12.10 Midday Concert. BBC Scottish SO Part one: Elgar (Waltz of Youth); Stravinsky (Dances concertantes); 1.00 News. Midday Concert: part two: Delius (Intermezzo, Fenmore and Gerda); On hearing the first cuckoo; 1.30 News. 2.00 Guitar music: Stepan Stancik plays some of his own compositions. 2.30 The Gentle Trumpet. Mahler (The scone from Transient bliss); Copland (Quiet City); Saint-Saëns (Soprano in E flat, Op 65); Franz Schmidt (Symphony No 4). 4.00 Elizabeth Gale and Martin Isopp, soprano and piano recital. Works by Schubert (Magnus sempiternus); Wolf (sentiments of the same poems); Strauss (Annettes outbursts and other works); 4.55 News. 5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Andrew Keener with a selection of recorded music. 6.30 Robert Johnson: Jakob Lindberg (Lullaby for Jakob); Alan, Alman, and Carman's Whistle. 7.00 British Piano Music: Kathryn Stott plays Howard's Sonata, and works by Howard Ferguson (Five Bagatelles); Cyril Scott and Tippett (Sonata No 2); 7.45 Mahler: Symphony No 2. BBC SO/London Philharmonic Choir/BBC Symphony Orchestra. 8.00 Chorus/Felicity Lott and Felicity Palmer. 9.15 Alexander Goehr and Rupert Baxendale play Grosvenor Chamber Group. Goehr (Suite Op 1), and Beethoven (The Angel and the Ship of Theseus). 10.00 Jazz Today: Charles Fox presents John Stevens's Freeport.

Radio 4

6.55 Shopping. 6.00 News Briefing: Shopping. 6.10 Farming. 6.25 Prayer for the Day. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.20 Letters. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.00 News. 8.57 Breakfast. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call. 01-560-4411. Listeners call to a discussion about legislation. 10.00 News. 10.05 From Our Own Correspondent. Life and politics abroad, reported by BBC foreign correspondents. 10.30 Morning Show. The editor of the Observer, by Phyllis Anderson. The reader is James Benson. 10.45 Daily Service. (New York) 11.00 News. 11.05 Travel: Thirty Minute Theatre. London: Seen by Philip Marriot. With James Roberts and Joe MacFarland. The story of a day in London. 11.33 The Living World. News of wildlife and the environment. 12.00 News. You and Yours. Consumer advice, with Patrice Colwell. 12.27 The World Tonight. A topical game with Dips Powell and Frank Purves challenging Libby Purves and Denis Norman (11.55-12.55). 1.00 The World Tonight. 1.15 The Financial World. 1.30 Today in Parliament. 1.35 The World This Week. Shipping Forecast. 1.55 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 The World's Women's Hour. Includes a feature on women who go into business partnerships. 3.00 News. The Afternoon Play: Embroideries by Juliet Ace. With a cast including Stephen Thomas, Elizabeth Proud and Julian Firth. (A morality tale about a drug family). 4.00 News. 4.05 The Food Programme. Derek Cooper with the latest developments in the fish trade. 4.30 Microscope. With Paul Wainwright. A scientific comment on Garrison Keillor's book Lake Wobegon Days (7.00). 5.00 P.N. News Magazine. 5.50 Shopping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 The Six O'Clock News. 6.30 On the Verge. A seven-part history of pantomime, narrated by Peter Jones. 7.00 News. 7.25 The Archers. 7.25 The World This Week. 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